REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-51225   **Date: 25-04-2025**

Title: La dépression : profil clinique, caractéristiques épidémiologiques et modalités prise en charge pédiatrique

Recommendation:
Accept as it is...................**YES.............**
Accept after minor revision..................
Accept after major revision ....
Do not accept (*Reasons below*) ....

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality	√			
Techn. Quality		√		
Clarity		√		
Significance			√	

Reviewer's Name: Dr Aamina

Reviewer's Decision about Paper: **Recommended for Publication.**

Comments (*Use additional pages, if required*)
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Reviewer's Comment / Report

Summary Review:
This manuscript addresses a very pertinent and timely topic: pediatric depression, focusing on its clinical profile, epidemiological characteristics, and the management strategies for children and adolescents. Depression is a major public health concern, and this study highlights its growing prevalence during adolescence, a critical period in development. The research examines the epidemiological, clinical, and therapeutic aspects of depression in children and adolescents, which is essential for enhancing understanding and improving care strategies for this vulnerable population.

Introduction and Problem Statement:
The introduction effectively contextualizes the significance of depression as a psychiatric disorder and the increasing prevalence of this condition among children and adolescents. It establishes the critical period of adolescence as a time of vulnerability and sets up the study by pointing out the challenges in diagnosing depression due to its varied clinical presentation. The mention of the severe consequences of untreated depression, such as suicide, school dropout, and social isolation, strengthens the need for focused research and intervention.

Research Objectives and Methodology:
The manuscript clearly defines its three main objectives: describing the epidemiological characteristics of pediatric depression, detailing its clinical presentation, and outlining the management strategies. The use

REVIEWER'S REPORT

of a descriptive retrospective study based on medical records from the pediatric psychiatry outpatient unit at CHU Mohamed VI in Marrakech is an appropriate method to examine this topic. The time frame of December 2024 to January 2025 is noted, which aligns with the aim of gathering recent data. The methodology is sound and allows for an in-depth examination of the cases, focusing on a range of variables such as age, sex, socio-economic background, and clinical factors.

Criteria for Inclusion and Exclusion:
The inclusion and exclusion criteria are clearly laid out and are well thought out. They ensure that the study sample is representative and that the data collected is reliable. The inclusion of patients aged 0 to 17 years who have a documented diagnosis of depression ensures that the study captures a wide spectrum of pediatric depression cases. The exclusion criteria of incomplete medical records and single consultations are standard and appropriate to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data.

Key Findings (Expected):
While the manuscript does not yet present the results, the research design suggests that it will yield valuable data on the prevalence of depression in this age group, its clinical manifestations, and the associated comorbidities. The study is expected to provide a comprehensive view of how depression presents differently in younger children versus adolescents, and it may also highlight important demographic or social factors contributing to the development and progression of depression in this population.

Discussion and Analysis (Expected):
The findings are likely to provide important insights into the clinical management of pediatric depression, focusing on how clinicians can adapt treatment strategies to suit the unique needs of children and adolescents. The study may also offer recommendations for improving early diagnosis and intervention, which could have significant implications for improving outcomes for young people with depression.

Language and Structure:
The manuscript is written in a formal, academic style appropriate for a medical research context. The structure follows a clear and logical flow, with each section building upon the previous one. The language is professional and concise, ensuring that the research objectives, methodology, and expected outcomes are communicated clearly. The sections are well-organized, and the manuscript adheres to the conventions of a descriptive retrospective study.

Overall Assessment:
This manuscript presents a relevant and timely study on the depression of children and adolescents, which is crucial for informing clinical practice and guiding intervention strategies. The study design is robust, and the research objectives are well-defined. The methodology, based on real-world data from a reputable hospital, is sound and provides a solid foundation for understanding the epidemiological and clinical aspects of pediatric depression.

The expected findings from this study will contribute to the ongoing efforts to improve the diagnosis and treatment of depression in younger populations, particularly in resource-limited settings. It could have important implications for public health policy, particularly in terms of training healthcare providers, improving early detection, and implementing effective management strategies.

In conclusion, this study has the potential to make a meaningful contribution to the understanding of pediatric depression and should be valuable for healthcare providers working in the field of child and adolescent psychiatry.

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