

That the depression and diabetes are causally related is based on studies from the literature<sup>3</sup>. However, in our study, the cause and effect relationship between the two could not be established and it was only the association of different risk factors with depression was observed.

## Authors' response

Dear Sir,

The suggestion<sup>1</sup> is well taken. As the prevalence of hypertension is also common in general population, a control group would have strengthened these data. However, we did not have a control group<sup>2</sup>.

The cause and effect relationship between depression and risk factors and the effect of risk factors on prevalence of diabetes have not been examined by us, since these all were already known patients with type 2 diabetes. However, a prospective study is available in the literature showing that patients with major depressive disorders have high prevalence of diabetes<sup>3</sup>.

Since it was a hospital based study, there may be a selection bias, as depressed diabetic patients may not visit the hospital. This should be considered as a limitation of the study.

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