

Author's response to reviews

Title: Factor Analysis of the Clustering of Common Somatic Symptoms: A Preliminary Study

Authors:

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Author's response to reviews: see over

Natalie Pafitis MSc
BioMed Central Editorial Team
BMC Health Services Research

MS: 1627321457310465,
Title: Factor Analysis of Common Somatic Symptoms: A Preliminary Study
Author: Chung-Huang Tsai

Dear Ms. Pafitis:

Thank you for your continued review of our manuscript. We have reviewed the comments and further revised the manuscript as directed. As requested, we have tracked the changes in the manuscript, and below we have provided our point-by-point responses to the reviewer comments.

Thank you again for your support of our work. We look forward to your continued correspondence.

Sincerely:

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Point-by-point responses to reviewer comments

As asked previously, please include context information in the background section of your abstract in addition to the aims of your study.

Author Response: We have revised the abstract as suggested. The revised background of the abstract now states: Studies of outpatient department patients indicate that somatic discomforts such as headache, neck pain, chest pain, low back pain, and gastrointestinal discomfort are commonly found in patients with multiple complaints. Clustering of some symptoms has been found in common somatic symptom analyses. Because of the complexity involved in the diagnosis of patients with multiple complaints, the aim of this study is to identify and classify patterns of somatic symptoms in individuals assessed during a health examination.

Reviewer's report:

I am glad that the emphasis on somatization disorder has almost disappeared. One incomprehensible sentence remains in the Discussion section: "It is difficult to completely rule out the possibility of somatic diseases in this study, as no cases clearly met the criteria of somatization disorder as given in the DSM-IV". First, of course the possibility of somatic diseases is not ruled out with patients presenting with somatic symptoms. Second, not meeting criteria of somatization disorder does not implicate a somatic disease.

Author Response: Thank you for your observation. We realize that the sentence was confusing, and have deleted it.