

Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 **Date:** 21 April 2010

Reviewer: Peter Verhaak

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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 are not ruled out with patients presenting with somatic symptoms.

Second, not meeting criteria of somatization disorder does not implicate a somatic disease.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'