Reviewer's report

**Title:** Patients presenting with somatic complaints in general practice: depression, anxiety and somatoform disorders are frequent and associated to psychosocial stressors

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**Reviewer:** Javier Garcia-Campayo

**Reviewer's report:**

This paper assess the prevalence of anxiety, depression and somatoform disorders in primary care settings and the influence of psychosocial distress in them.

My major concerns on this paper are the following:

1.- What adds this paper to the previous knowledge? The authors should emphasize it. There are dozens of papers on the prevalence of these disorders in primary care. Most of them are multinational, multicentre, using big samples and with a stringent epidemiological methodology, for that reason they have been published in relevant journals. This is an small replication in one country, with severe limitations. Maybe it could have interest at local level but not for an international journal.

Regarding the influence of psychosocial distress on psychiatric disorders, this is something known for decades. The question is to identify which kind of stress and on which sort of patients.

2.- Methodology: This is not the best methodology for these objectives. Sample is rather reduced for an epidemiological study and this is a local study. Methods for assess the influence of stress are unusual. Most studies in Psychosomatics use specific instruments developed to assess stress such as Perceived Stress Questionnaire and other similar. The question on stress is not the specific event but the effect that that event produces on the patient. The authors should defend the use of the 12th question of PHQ to this aim.

The authors have described the limitations of the study. They are really important.

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

- It is necessary to include a flowchart of the study explaining rejections and causes

**Minor Essential Revisions:**

- Sample size calculation is not described in the statistic analysis section but in the sample section.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

declare that I have no competing interests