Reviewer’s report

Title: The clinical overlap between functional dyspepsia and irritable bowel syndrome according to Rome III criteria

Version: 2 Date: 18 August 2008

Reviewer: Giorgio Bedogni

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

None

Minor Essential Revisions

P2. Abstract: You may wish to write “the only significant predictor” instead of “significant predictor”.

P4. Giving the needed sample size is enough. I suggest to avoid reporting the formula because it requires explanation of symbols, e.g. u and sin (it appears that PDF processing has corrupted some characters). Just a question: if 385 subjects were enough why did you enroll about 8 times more subject? This has no ethical implications for the present study so that this is not a weakness but just much more work for researchers.

P6. Please, specify that the (excellent) ICC applies to the summary score. Give also the number of patients on whom the validation study was performed.

P9 Please, write dichotomous variable instead of binomial variable, since the latter is a statistical distribution.

P12 Please, delete “the enrollment was some biased”. The description as limitation is enough.

P12 Just a question: why do you think a larger sample is needed? I agree with the need of a confirmatory multi-center study but, provided that the prevalence of the outcome is not extremely low in the other centers, the sample size should not be very high (see point 4).

Tables 3 and 4: please, specify that these are multivariable models in the legend (use the term multivariate if you prefer).

Discretionary Revisions

None

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests