Reviewer's report

Title: Type D personality is a risk factor for psychosomatic symptoms and musculoskeletal pain among adolescents - a cross-sectional study of a large population-based cohort of Swedish adolescents.

Version: 4 Date: 4 December 2012

Reviewer: Paula M.C. Mommersteeg

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions.

I agree with most adaptations and revisions that have been made. There is one important issue that remains which needs adaptation.

In response to previous made point 3: "Please clearly mention in Table as well as tekst whether the interaction term was based on the Z-transformed NA x Z-transformed SI scores, or not. It now says (page 8 statistical analysis): "We moreover included Z-score transformations of the NA and SI scales and tested for interaction effects." which does not specify whether the interaction term was based on the z-transformed scores.

RE: We have added footnotes in the tables to indicate whether the variables are based on raw scores or z-scores."

Indeed, it now becomes clear that the authors have used the Z-transformed main variables of interest Z(NA), Z(SI), but for the interaction term of both they have used the raw scores of NA x SI.

This is unfortunately incorrect.

When examining the effect of two main variables and their interaction term, the interaction term should be the product of the main variables of interest, thus using the Z(NA)xZ(SI) term instead of using the z-transformed NA and SI scores but the raw non-Z-transformed interaction term. Otherwise the authors could have used both nontransformed NA, SI with the nontransformed (raw) NAXSI interaction term.

In the analysis (Table 4), a combination of Z-transformed main variables of interest but untransformed interaction term is now being used. In this way, the main variables of interest are different from their interaction term. This is unusual and incorrect.

Please adapt Table 4 to report the Z-transformed values of NA, z-transformed values of SI, AND the Z(NA) x Z(SI) interaction term. Clearly report in the statistical section.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
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’