Reviewer's report

Title: Increased risk of major depression subsequent to a first-attack and non-infection caused urticaria in adolescence: A nationwide population-based study

Version: 2
Date: 1 May 2014
Reviewer: Rosa Calvo

Reviewer's report:

The authors' hypothesis holds that stress, social and functional impact and influence in physical appearance of urticaria facilitate the onset of a new depressive episode in an adolescent population. This is a retrospective study with an impressive sample size, but it is not a clinical study. Similar hypothesis have driven already studies in adults (Wallegren, 2007; Staubach, 2011; Takahashi, 2013).

Major compulsory revision: To obtain additional data and use some of these variables as covariates:
• Identification of chronic conditions in control group that could also increase risk for affective or anxious disorders.
• Data on FH (Family History) of affective disorders
• The authors already acknowledge the limitations of diagnosis identification through codes sent to National Health Database. More diagnostic validity could be reached if those who coded the diagnosis could be identified as senior psychiatrists and/or dermatologists (in case of urticaria condition). If so, are they themselves introducing the codes? Please, explain the procedures.
• Pharmacological treatment: to assess the influence of some of these treatments on development of depressive episode (corticosteroids)

Minor revision:
To take into account in discussion section:
• Association of depression with autoimmune and allergic diseases in families (FH)

Discretionary revision:
Typographical errors:
• Page 14, l 11: physicologic, psychologic
• Page 15, l 5: urticaira, urticaria

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:
I declare that I have no competing interests