Reviewer's report

Title: Psychiatric Disorders of Patients Seeking Obesity Treatment

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Reviewer: Samuele Cortese

Reviewer's report:

This an interesting study. Although the topic is not novel, the relationship between mental health disorders and obesity has been assessed mostly in studies from the US or Europe. Studies in other geographic and social contexts are therefore very welcome and highly important, given the interplay between social and neurobiological factors in both obesity and mental health disorders. The topic is relevant from a clinical and public health standpoint. The paper is generally well written. I have some suggestions to improve the quality of the manuscript.

Background:

The authors mention the prevalence of obesity in the US. It would be appropriate, given the setting of the study, to report the prevalence in Taiwan as well. I suggest to quote: Asia Pac J Clin Nutr. 2009;18(1):88-95. Understanding the differences in obesity among working adults between Taiwan and China. Shimokawa S, Chang HH, Pinnstrup-Andersen P.

The authors should point out, at the end the introduction, what this paper does specifically add to previous literature in the field, i.e., the original aspects of this study and why it was carried out. This should be followed, in the last paragraph of the introduction, by the specific aims and the specific hypotheses.

Methods: The inclusion and exclusion criteria are not clear to the Reviewer. Please add them.

The level of statistical significance (I guess p< 0.05, one or two tailed?) should be pointed out.

Discussion: I do not see a discussion of the strengths and limitations of the study. Please add it.

From the results section, as well as from table 2, it appears that ADHD was not evaluated. If this is the case, the authors should mention this as a limitation the study, and quote references about the emerging link between ADHD and obesity (e.g., : Postgrad Med. 2010 Sep;122(5):88-96. Comorbidity between ADHD and obesity: exploring shared mechanisms and clinical implications. Cortese S, Morcillo Peñalver C.). Interestingly, the authors found a link with sleep disorders. Given the link between sleep disorders and ADHD, this should be also briefly mentioned (e.g.: Parent reports of sleep/alertness problems and ADHD symptoms in a sample of obese adolescents. Cortese S, Maffeis C, Konofal E,
Mention to ADHD and the connection between sleep disorders and ADHD would stimulate the field to explore comorbidities other than the classic ones that have been extensively explored (e.g., depressive and anxiety disorders), thus moving the field towards novel advances.


**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest 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