Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Association between Psychiatric Disorders and Iron Deficiency Anemia among Children and Adolescents: A Nationwide Population-Based Study

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 7 November 2012

**Reviewer:** Chi-Yung Shang

**Reviewer’s report:**

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

This is a study to investigate the association between iron deficiency anemia and psychiatric disorders. This is a well writing manuscript with clear organization. But there are still some points to be clarified.

1. What is the age of the control group? The authors should add the age distribution of the control group and compute the statistical analysis in Table 2 to demonstrate that there is no age difference between IDA patients and controls.

2. This is a age- and gender-matched study design. What is the reason for adjusting for age and gender in statistical analysis?

3. Although the authors have excluded major physical illnesses when recruiting the control group, how can they determine that the control group really has no iron-deficiency problem? That is, can subjects without major physical illnesses be equal to subjects without any iron-deficiency problem?

4. The National Health Insurance database in Taiwan has recorded the timing of IDA and psychiatric diagnosis. What is the temporal sequence of IDA and psychiatric diagnosis because it may contribute to the understanding of underlying cause relationship?

5. The subjects with IDA may receive treatment for iron deficiency. Is there treatment effect on the association between IDA and psychiatric disorders in the authors’ data?

**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.