Reviewer’s report

Title: A Clinical Approach to the Assessment and Management of Co-morbid Eating Disorders and Substance Use Disorders

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Reviewer: Mario Speranza

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting review concerning the co-occurrence of eating disorders (EDs) and substance use disorders (SUDs). The topic is of interest for clinicians and the authors have made a nice effort to integrate a large part of the current literature of the field. The paper is well written and structured in three chapters (epidemiology, assessment and diagnosis and management) followed by a general conclusion.

Concerning the first section of the first chapter (epidemiology, prevalence), there is a lot of data that are discussed which are sometimes contradictory. The methodology of the studies on which the conclusions are drawn are not presented (cross-sectional or longitudinal, for example; the quality of the papers, the diagnostic category, the assessment tools....). Moreover, it is not always indicated or commented the role of the potential mediating factors influencing the prevalence: for example, the presence of mood disorders or personality disorders in the sample. This is not always included in the results of the studies, but it is of importance for the understanding of the problem. For example, I was surprised not to find any reference to the ADHD comorbidity which could be an important mediator. This should be highlighted here or, even better, in the Aetiological section. In fact, there are some hypotheses concerning the differential relationships (for example concerning alcohol abuse and EDs) which could be discussed in more details in the Aetiological section.

I would made some suggestions to improve the readability of the text: 1) I think that for a review such as this, a table resuming the main points for each study should be included: authors, journal, year, sample characteristics, design of the study, tools, main results, prevalence, mediator or confounding factors, comment on the quality of the study). This could be annoying to do for the authors but necessary for the reader to have a more precise idea of the data. 2) At the end of each section, a brief phrase should resume the results (in some section this is already done).

Concerning the second section of the first chapter (epidemiology, Aetiological and risk factors), it could be interesting to say more about the addiction models and especially the addiction model of ED. Although empirical data are lacking, a better description of this topic would give a better understanding of the relationships between EDs and SUDs. And these relationships are not limited to genetic and neurobiological aspects but also to psychopathological ones.
(reported in part in the personality factors). There is a large theoretical litterature that could be commented (for exemple : Goodman, 2008), but also some empirical studies (David and Claridge, 1998, Cassin et al., 2007, Speranza et al., 2012).

Finally, I think that it could be important to introduce some comments about adolescence. This a key period for the development of both EDs and SUDs and for primary and secondary prevention. The review should sort some data and references specifically oriented towards this age period.

Concerning the following sections (assessment and management) and the conclusions, they are not major problems. A comment could be added in the conclusion concerning the interest of performing a meta-analysis of all the available data as a next step to this work.

The paper brings interesting informations and should be published with the intergration of the suggested minor revisions.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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