Reviewer’s report

Title: Increased number of somatic pain sites is associated with poor mental health in 18,104 adolescents: a cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 14 July 2012

Reviewer: Akira Babazono

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The purpose of the study is to investigate the association between the number of somatic pain sites and poor mental health and to examine the association between the number of pain sites and perceived academic impairment with data from a cross-sectional questionnaire survey.

First of all, one month prevalence of somatic pains seems to be high. The prevalence of headaches, neck and shoulder pain and abdominal pain were respectively 35.5%, 19.7%, and 35.1%. Secondly, their mental health was unusually poor. The mean GHQ-12 score of girls was as high as 4.25. The proportions of those had poor mental health with no pain, headache only, neck and shoulder pain only, abdominal pain only, headache and neck pain and shoulder pain, headache and neck pain and shoulder pain were respectively 28.9%, 44.7%, 50.5%, 45.7%, 63.0%, 60.2%, 61.5%. The data could be biased and would not be a representative of the population. It would not be suitable for publication.

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.