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: 2 Date: 30 August 2012

Reviewer: Akira Babazono

Reviewer's report:

The authors responded that prevalence of somatic pain and proportion of those having poor mental health was comparable to other reports. However, there should be some limitation. You define somatic pain by a questionnaire rather than by a subjective examination. In addition, you define those having mental health by GHQ12. Please describe information bias about your definitions of somatic pain and those having mental health.

You wrote as follows in page 20. “Inquiries about pain may also be beneficial in regard to suicide prevention because previous studies on depressive patients have demonstrated that individuals with somatic pain have a lower quality of life and higher suicidal ideation [32].” However, your study did not show any evidence on the point. The prevalence of somatic pain and proportion of those having poor mental health were very high in your study. It is not realistic for you to consider prevention strategy against suicide to them.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.