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: 8 September 2012

Reviewer: Kazuhito Yokoyama

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Major Compulsory Revisions
1. The manuscript seems still lengthy. The authors should make every effort to shorten the text.
2. Abstract section: Background should be more concise. Methods and Results should refer to the logistic regression analysis; Abstract must reflect the body of manuscript. Definition of “poor mental health” is necessary. “GHQ” should be “GHQ-12.”
3. Methods section: Subheadings of “GHQ-12,” “Three sites of somatic pain,” “Perceived academic impairment,” and “Additional variables” should be under “Measures.” The sentence “The prevalence of each somatic pain... McNemar test” is unclear. Explanation of the logistic regression is insufficient; readers have to infer what the authors have done from the legends in Tables 2 – 4; “the outcome” should be “dependent variable” and “the exposure” should be “independent variable.”
4. Results section – The results of statistical inference should be in Table 1, not in the text.
5. Discussion and whole text: In my comments to the first manuscript, I pointed out that subjects with increased number of complaints or subjective symptoms, i.e. high GHQ scores, probably reported somatic pains more, and such person might report low perceived academic achievements. The authors should consider a problem of “trait” or “personality” of subjects.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.