Reviewer’s report

Title: Factor Analysis of the Zung Self-Rating Depression Scale in Patients with Major Depressive Disorder in Primary Care.

Version: 1 Date: 12 July 2007

Reviewer: Toshinori Kitamura

Reviewer’s report:

General

This is a very interesting and informative piece of information to the literature on depression symptomatology.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

I think that the authors should perform confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) using these data and compared their factor structure and the other authors’ proposed factor structure (such as a three-factor structure). Secondly, using this large number of participants, I would be interested in whether the factor structure would differ in terms of sex and age group. The same may be the case for the severity grades of depression.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

References re: GADS, and the original MINI (Sheehan?).

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Discussion should be focussed on the differences between their and previous reports. Why do PC patients show four factors while students three factors.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance 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.