Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluating the Prevalence and Associated Factors for Obsessive Compulsive Disorder in Turkish University Students

Version: 1 Date: 24 February 2009

Reviewer: Ana G Hounie

Reviewer's report:

1. The question posed by the authors is well defined. However, it would be better to search for associated factors, as risk factors can be determined only in longitudinal studies. Additionally, the authors did not investigate several risk factors that have been discussed in the literature on OCD, such as streptococcal infections, prenatal events, traumatic events, including post traumatic stress disorder, or even obsessive-compulsive symptoms in childhood, as well as family history of OCD and Tourette syndrome.

2. The methods are well described. I wonder if the GHQ-12 is an instrument capable of selecting OCD cases. The questions included in the GHQ are low-specific. I would like the authors to comment on the studies, if there are any, on how OCD patients score on the GHQ.

3. Regarding the data, the authors found a rate of OCD of 4%. It should be discussed whether this result is a bias resulting from the interview method, or the interviewers’ training. How the authors think the 19 students that refused to participate influenced the results? Additionally, it would be interesting to have a Table with the characteristics of the OCD cases, not only the LRA data. This would help to understand the findings.

4. Yes.

5. Although the authors state that students in Turkey have to leave their homes and live by themselves, and this would be a stress factor, 60% of their sample still lived with their parents. Additionally, it would be better more caution before stating some of the conclusions. For example, stating the obsessive symptoms are secondary to heavy course loads or limited social opportunities are not supported by the data. Moreover, the discussion on gender prevalence is not taking into account the current age and the fact that OCD has a bimodal distribution. Furthermore, the authors should be also more cautious in referring to the variables as protective or risk factors. For example, people with OCD may had had in their homes a private room due to their fear of contamination from other members of the family. Then, this would be a consequence and not a risk factor for OCD. The same with verbal abuse, as OCD patients can be very annoying.

6. No, the limitations of the study are not explored.
7. The authors should expand the references. I cannot comment on the authors having or not cited unpublished work.

8. The title needs grammatical revision. For example: Prevalence of Obsessive-compulsive disorder in Turkey University Students and assessment of associated factors.

9. There are minor revisions to be made on the writing. For example, in the Methods section the first two sentences are not separated by a dot.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests