Reviewer’s report

Title: The interrelation between premenstrual syndrome and major depression: results from a population-based sample

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Reviewer: Fabio Facchinetti

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This paper reports on a postal study about the relationships between PMS/PMDD and major depression.

The main limitation of this study is that it did not address neither PMS, nor PMDD. PSST is a screening, not a diagnostic tool. A simplified version it is therefore much less diagnostic, unless Authors have validated it against a gold standard. If this is not the case I suggest to change title and appropriate section of the paper substituting PMS/PMDD with “women with premenstrual discomfort” or something like that.

Other Comments
1) In the background there are no reference to the comorbidity of PMS with anxiety disorders which was already demonstrated
2) In methods section it is not clear whether modified PSST version was included in the SHS questionnaire. If so, how many eligible women answer? This is crucial for evaluating the true participant rate.
3) Under “assessment of PMS” please state you are using a modified, simplified version of PSST. State also if such german, reduced version has been validated for PMS diagnosis.
4) Page 7 Stat anal first group would be “women.. without PMS/PMDD” not without PMS alone.
5) In Methods section Authors are required to clearly explicit how they diagnosed PMS different from PMDD.
6) Why Authors reported in Table 1 PMS/PMDD together as stated in group definition while in Table 2 they separately reported the two conditions?
7) I suppose ref 6 is “in the Press”?