Reviewer’s report

Title: Quality of Life Impairment Associated with Body Dissatisfaction in a General Population Sample of Women

Version: 3 Date: 28 January 2013

Reviewer: Kyle De Young

Reviewer’s report:

In this resubmitted manuscript, the authors have again been generally responsive to the concerns I raised in my previous review. The revised manuscript is clearer in its use of terms than the last and more circumscribed in its conclusions. I will leave the concerns raised by the other reviewer to that reviewer for comment. In total, this study remains a meaningful contribution to the literature with specific strengths that include a large, representative sample. At the risk of sounding like a broken record, I will mention only one point first mentioned in my initial review that would provide greater clarity to readers, if addressed. I consider the following to be minor essential revisions.

In identifying what the authors now refer to as “eating disorder symptoms,” they reference their previous work and describe that individuals were identified as having eating disorder symptoms if they endorsed “the presence of extreme concerns about weight or shape in conjunction with the regular occurrence of any eating disorder behavior.” It is expected by readers, and good scientific practice, to provide operational definitions within a manuscript with supporting citations, where appropriate. The authors provide the citation, but more details about “regular occurrence of any eating disorder behavior” are warranted. This is especially the case now that the authors have added a much needed and well-executed paragraph to the discussion about the limitations of this method of statistical control that references “lower or less frequent levels of disordered eating…. The reader is left wondering, “lower or less frequent than what?” A reader should not have to read a separate publication to find this detail.

The authors would further improve the clarity of this concept if they consistently refer to “regularly occurring eating disorder behavior” (or something similar) when discussing how they controlled for “eating disorder behavior.” This is the behavior, of course, for which what they actually controlled.

Thank you again for the opportunity to review this manuscript.

Kyle De Young, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychology
University of North Dakota

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.