Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Screening for type 2 diabetes is feasible, acceptable, but associated with increased anxiety: a randomised controlled trial in British general practice

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 6 August 2008

**Reviewer:** Hans-Ulrich Wittchen

**Reviewer’s report:**

In their well done randomized controlled trial, Paul Park and colleagues examined the impact of an diabetes screening on anxiety after six weeks. They found out, that the screening program is associated with higher levels of anxiety among screened compared to not screened participants. The manuscript is very well written. The question is well defined and the methods and statistical analyses are appropriate and well described. Result section is understandable and precise.

Discussion could be more balanced and inconsistencies to other publications (especially other publications from the ADDITION study) should be spotlighted. Limitations are clearly stated. Authors there work clearly and abstract is appropriate.

**Major comments:**

The present study seem to base on data from the pre-study of ADDITION. Results from the main study were published in the British Medical Journal in August 2007 (Eborall et al. Psychological impact of screening for type 2 diabetes: controlled trial and comparative study embedded in the ADDITION (Cambridge) randomized controlled trial).

The authors are using nearly the same method like Eborall et al. with two differences. They have a smaller sample and they performed their anxiety screening after 6 weeks compared to 3-6 month and 12-15 month.

Both manuscripts came to different results and therefore also to different conclusions. In the present work, diabetes screening increases anxiety in patients and in Eborall et al. the screening has no influence. These differences should be highlighted more in the discussion section. What can be the reason for this meaningful difference? What is more important – anxiety after 6 weeks or long-term consequences? Should a diabetes screening be part of the routine assessment in higher risk patients? To my view the advantages of a screening should be mentioned more. Early detection of diabetes can help to prevent diabetic complications and therefore improve quality of life and reduce costs for health care system.

**Minor comments:**

Page 1 – Title

Maybe there should be added something like: … increased short time anxiety…
or increased anxiety within 6 weeks after screening

Page 2 – Abstract
Background: ... illness perception. punctuation mark is missing
Methods: … illness perceptions. punctuation mark is missing

Page 4 – Methods:
Oral glucose tolerance test – how much glucose was given?

Page 8 – Results:
Citation of “Park. P. et al. 2008” – is in full text and not with numbers. Normally there should be no citations in the results section

Page 17 & 18:
Table 2 and 3: please use only horizontal lines in tables

Page 19 & 20:
Figure 1 and 2: these figures should be improved in print quality (maybe use a higher resolution)

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests