Reviewer's report

Title: Correlates of quality of life of overweight patients: a pharmacy-based cross-sectional survey

Version: 1 Date: 24 December 2008

Reviewer: Francesco Corica

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Major Compulsory Revision

1. Background.
This section start with a sentence which refer to chronic diseases in general. Successively, the Authors state about the prevalence of obesity. Thi is somwhat confusing. I think it should be rephrased.

Only patients with BMI>=28 were enrolled. However, as the Authors state, the aim of the study was to investigate QOL in overweight patients. It seems to me that overweight patients are a minority in this study given the BMI cut off used to define the inclusion criteria.

The Authors should explain why the OSQOL was choosen for this study, its internal consistency, and should present briefly previous experiences with this instrument.

The identification of comorbid diagnoses is a very relevant problem. The Authors acknowledged partially this problem in the limitations section when they state that diagnoses for whom no drug was prescribed were not identifiable. However, can the Authors explain how was determined the comorbid diagnosis from drugs used for more than one possible disease (e.g. ace-inhibitors: heart failure? hypertension? diabetic nephropathy?)?

3. Results.
BMI varied from 28 to 51 (median=32).
Overweight patients (25<BMI<30) are only a minority. The Authors should consider to change the referral to overweight throughout the manuscript.

Univariate analysis: Please describe univariate analysis before introducing results from multivariable models (as on page 8).

4. Discussion.
The Authors should consider to discuss the impact of obesity on QOL in the light of recent findings suggesting that psychological well being is one of the most important correlates of QOL, both in the physical and in the mental domains (Corica et al, Int J Obes 2008).