Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 8 April 2009

Reviewer: Edwin Wouters

Reviewer's report:

Dear editor,

I feel that the authors have worked hard on this paper and have made some substantial improvements (especially the introduction part is much better). However some serious issues remain:

Major compulsory revisions:

1. p.6 ‘relations with other people’ is much too broad a category to be measured by the statement 'I feel attacked when people talk about my weight’. This statement just tells something about the person’s reaction to comments, not necessarily about the quality or the nature of his/her relations to other people... I would suggest renaming this item to a less ‘ambitious’ category.

2. p.7 it is not clear to me how the first two dimensions were constructed from the 7 and 2 questions. If a summation score was created, the authors should first do a factor analysis (for sure on the 7 items) to see whether the different items measure the same construct. If I look at the descriptive statistics of the different items, I doubt that this is the case. If not, then one cannot use the summation score as it measures two or even three things at the same time.

3. p.15 in the study limitations section, the authors state that a selection bias (people attending pharmacies being more sick and therefore causing the QoL of the sample being lower than that of the obese/overweight population) is improbable because no significant influence of co-morbid diagnosis on QoL measures was found. However, these co-morbid diagnosis only reflect the rather severe illnesses like diabetes etc. It seems to me that it is highly probable that obese/overweight patients visit the pharmacy for less severe sources of discomfort that can also impair QoL, e.g. sore feet, allergies, etc. These sources of discomfort may have nothing to do with being overweight and may not be captured by the questions of this study, but they will certainly be more prominent among people visiting the pharmacy on a regular basis and will therefore cause a selection bias.

In addition the absence of a significant impact of co-morbid diagnoses on QoL seems a bit strange. In the sample diabetes, rheumatic conditions and other chronic illnesses would have no negative impact on the QoL, which contradicts the literature... For example, I would expect rheumatoid conditions negatively influencing the ability to squat or to climb stairs.
Minor compulsory revisions:
1. p.3 on the third line a bracket is missing (it is closed but not opened).
2. p.3 on the fourth line, a full stop is needed after [9]
3. p.3 after [12-14] again a full stop is required

In conclusion, I think the paper is improved substantially, but some issues remain to make it suitable for publication.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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