Reviewer's report

Title: The prevalence of work-related stress, and its association with self-perceived health and sick-leave, in a cohort of employed Swedish women.

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Reviewer: Joost J van der Gulden

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The prevalence of work-related stress, and its association with self-perceived health and sick-leave, in a cohort of employed Swedish women

General impression
This is well-written and relevant paper on work-related stress and its link with sick leave in female workers.

An interesting point – that calls for more attention in the Discussion – is the finding that the OR’s found for perceived stress owing to a particular work characteristic are substantially higher than those for the characteristics as such.

Some minor remarks
Pg 3: …. psychiatric diagnoses have risen … Is ‘stress reactions’ one of these psychiatric diagnoses? Psychical complaints might be better term.

Pg 4: why has one decided to select women aged 38 and 50 for this study?

Pg 6: ‘reliability and face validity has been evaluated, and both were found to be good.’ Is it possible to give the quantitative evaluation results?

Pg 7: please, explain the cut-off procedure chosen to define high exposure to indistinct organisation and conflicts (4-7 items) and individual demands and commitment (7 items). Why is a positive answer on 5 or 6 items defined as ‘low exposure’?