Reviewer's report

Title: Factors accounting for the association between anxiety and depression, and eczema: The Hordaland Health Study (HUSK)

Version: 2 Date: 6 January 2010

Reviewer: Ruth E Taylor

Reviewer's report:

Generally the authors have addressed all reviewers points thoroughly. A few comments only:

Discretionary revision: p5 mention of hypochondria symptoms (where health anxiety is a dimension). this is not very clear. Need to just define health anxiety and hypochondria.

Typo page 19 mega instead of omega end second to last para

Discussion. Interesting points raised re somatization driving the relationship between anxiety depression and excema. A possible mechanism via cytokines is suggested. The authors suggest some forms of excema could represent a symptom of somatisation. I find this concept difficult as going back to the icd 10 definition of somatisation used here it is a mental disorder characterized by experience of somatic symptoms without known organic origin. The symptoms of excema do have a known organic origin so by definition I would have thought could not be somatisation. Perhaps the authors could clarify this.

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

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.