Reviewer's report

Title: Hidden consequences of olfactory dysfunction

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Reviewer: Basile Landis

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Comments on « Hidden consequences of olfactory dysfunction »

General Comments:

The authors conducted an online study amongst patients with olfactory disorders. The results of all these self reports are summarized and reported within the paper.

Major Comments:

I have a very ambivalent opinion about this paper. I had moments where I was very amused by the content and discovered reports I have seen in my own patient but had never seen in a paper. Therefore I really liked the completeness of the various aspects reported by the patients suffering from olfactory disorders. I also liked the fact that this is a paper reporting the patients view and not one of the usual quality of life papers telling everybody that eating, hedonics and undetected gas leaks bother the patients. The information and reports in this paper are important and interesting. It is an original paper!

However I have some major concerns. First the length: The paper is far too long! Shorten it to half or even less of the present size! Second: the reader is confronted with an immense amount of reports which are grouped into subchapters but there is no real analysis. This makes the paper a sum of anecdotes and sometimes very funny and vividly described complaints. This is the strong point of the paper but also a shortcoming since we do not know how many patients (in percentage) suffer from social isolation or not being taken seriously by their physician. It’s more a narrative paper that a real study.

I would propose that the title is changed or an addition made like “hidden…..dysfunction – a patient report series”

Minor Comments:

None

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests: none declared