Reviewer’s report

Title: Factor Analysis of Common Somatic Symptoms: A Preliminary Study

Version: 1 Date: 20 January 2010

Reviewer: Michael Gara

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Based on a rudimentary factor analysis (FA) of symptoms presented by 683 patients who received a one-day physical examination and completed a structured interview, 4 symptom symptoms were identified: 1) pain symptoms, 2) cold symptoms, 3) cardiopulmonary symptoms, and 4) gastrointestinal symptoms. The distribution of symptoms differed between males and females. The result is of some interest to those interested in the structure of somatic symptoms cross-culturally and by gender. The FA while rudimentary, is competently done, although a three-mode FA may have been more appropriate given gender based differences.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.