Reviewer’s report

Title: Epidemiology of gastrointestinal symptoms in young and middle-aged Swiss adults: prevalences and comorbidities in a longitudinal population cohort over 28 years

Version: 1 Date: 30 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Steven R Blanke

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript entitled "Epidemiology of gastrointestinal symptoms in young and middle-aged Swiss adults: prevalences and comorbidities in a longitudinal population cohort over 28 years" evaluates the prevalence of subacute and chronic gastrointestinal symptoms and their associations with somatic and mental disorders in the general population.

Strengths of the manuscript include the importance of the overall area of study, the large, longitudinal nature of the study, and, the design of the study to eliminate age differences as a variable.

The data are largely consistent with other publications. The weaknesses and caveats of the study are largely acknowledged by the authors. The data are difficult to interpret in terms of causality, and thus it is difficult to assess the extent to which this manuscript advances the field.

The cover letter implies that the current manuscript is a resubmission, but there is no indication about the disposition of the original reviews, as well as the changes that have been made in response to the original critiques.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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