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: 08 Dec 2017

Reviewer: Mohammad Bashashati

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting article; the findings are expected, if nobody has published similar data on this database, this would be suitable for publication.

1) What questionnaire did you use for GI symptoms? Was it valid? Have you ever published GI data from this cohort? Why Stomach and intestine symptoms and not upper/lower GI symptoms.

2) Whenever you report OR (you should include CI).

3) the abstract has values and abbreviations which need definition or CI or SEM/SD.

4) The manuscript needs technical revision, e.g. instead of saying "subacute>=1 week", you should say "1 week <= subacute <= 1 month. How did you come with idea of More than 1 week as subacute; i.e. in diarrhea >2 weeks and <1 month is subacute"

5) "In order to increase the probability of the development of psychiatric syndromes, from this screening sample of 4547 persons a stratified subsample of 591 subjects (292 men, 299 women) was selected for interview?" Development or detection? How did you select the sample size; any missing data? why? The methodology section is not clear.

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

No

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 am able to assess the statistics

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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