Reviewer’s report

Title: Predictors of orthorexic behaviours in patients with eating disorders. A preliminary study

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Reviewer: M. Varga

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The manuscript titled Predictors of orthorexic behaviours in patients with eating disorders. A preliminary study introduces a study which aimed to investigate ON tendency of ED patients and the predictors of ON tendency.

It is a very current and interesting topic, since the relationship, (the boundary also) between eating disorders and orthorexic behavior is not clear yet. So researches for discovering ON phenomenon and its place among psychological or psychosomatical disorders are needed. It is really good, that authors suggest practical points of their research. Their find these kind of researches important to develop specific treatment approach for individuals with orthorexic behavior.

Some of the results raise some interesting questions. It is not clear how to understand that there is a group of ED patients who don't show typical symptoms of ED patients: they are not anxious about fattening, rating the weight as average, not scoring high on EAT 26, so having no disordered eating attitudes(?). How is it possible, that ED patients don't show typical basic ED symptoms at all? It would be good to know what kind of ED symptoms they have. There is a small sample size, and not enough information about the characteristics of the participants of the study.

Two different latent classes were discovered in the study. However, these two groups can not cover all of the typical types of ED patients. It would be good to have more information about these groups, the further characteristics of the member of that groups (N, weight, etc.).

Figure 1. is also missing from the MS.

Authors use a cut-off point of ORTO scale, and try to estimate the prevalence of ON. It is risky to talk about prevalence rates in the case of ON, since it is not a diagnostical category, and the high prevalence rates, which are reported in some other studies too, and also in the present study ("82.7% strong preoccupation with a healthy food intake"), make the correctness of the cut-off point or the measured construct measured by the tests, questionable.
Discussion section: Explanation are not clear enough

There are some conclusions in the Discussion section, which are sometimes very speculative without evidences. For example, when the authors try to explain their results with "In other words, orthorexic behaviours may represent a particular phase of the patients' ED course" or the explanation associated with the results of negative correlation between ON and health orientation.

It is not clear how the authors got to the point that the ON is more common among patients with AN? We don't know the base of this statement. (references? Result of the present study?)

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

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I recommend additional statistical review

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