Reviewer's report

Title: Correlation Between Psychological Stress Levels and the Severity of Overactive Bladder Symptoms

Version: 2 Date: 14 December 2014

Reviewer: Daniele Bianchi

Reviewer's report:

The Authors present a paper about correlation between psychological stress and OAB, which has been poorly investigated in the previous literature, although the manuscript actually focuses on “OAB wet”, even while discussing the potential clinical implication of the findings.

The manuscript has been accurately drafted according to ICS and AUA guidelines, standardisation and terminology; a wide amount of validated tests have been used.

As the Authors themselves declared, apart from the not large sample size, the “directionality” of the relationship between stress and OAB cannot be ascertained in this study, which represents its major limitation.

Demonstrating the manuscript focuses on a clinical entity such as OAB, the lack of urodynamic tests may be not a limitation of the study.

Some details could be improved, as discussed below.

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISION

1) Did the Authors investigate about any recent or previous physical or sexual abuse in the patients’ history? Please, specify in the manuscript.

2) Given a high prevalence of anxiety and depression in OAB has been reported both in the literature and in this study, did the Authors consider the option of stratifying their results according to the presence of any of these conditions? Otherwise, they may include a pertinent citation among the limitations of the study.

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS

1) Some acronyms should be corrected (see lines 55 and 58)

2) Did the Authors take records about obesity? It may be specified it in the manuscript

3) Some further information about anxiety and depression may be of interest, such as the time of diagnosis, the exact nosological entity (e.g. major depression?), drugs taken (time, duration of treatment, recent modification)

4) Lines 250-8: Does the Authors’ opinion just refer to urgency incontinence or also to other OAB-related LUTS? The two cited papers report an improvement just on urgency incontinence. Please, specify in the manuscript.

DISCRETIONARY REVISIONS
1) Did the patients undergo any previous or recent treatment for OAB?

2) Lines 264-6:

“While it is not surprising that incontinence can increase psychological stress (UI -> stress), the reverse may also occur, i.e. high psychological stress may exacerbate existing symptoms in OAB (stress -> UI).”

Do the Authors mean that any OAB symptom can increase psychological stress or do they especially refer to UI? Possibly, it could be specified in the text, also because while reverting the sentence there is not a whole correspondence.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.