Reviewer’s report

Title: Economic burden of symptomatic iron deficiency - A Survey among Swiss women

Version: 2 Date: 21 May 2018

Reviewer: Sucheta Mehra

Reviewer's report:

This appears to be an interesting paper and contributes to the literature, elegantly worked out and written. There are few issues that need explanation and elucidation, which would strengthen the paper

1. Line 47 - the sentence is a little extreme, there are various nutrients, the deficiency of which is virtually ubiquitous, zinc being an example. Authors should soften the sentence.

2. Line 54 - the burden on individuals beyond cost of IV therapy should be a consideration, and expounded upon.

3. The background would be strengthened with information on the situation in Switzerland - a description of the language representation, the age breakdown and the prevalence of iron deficiency based on other studies.

4. Methods - despite much being made of the population-weighting of the dataset, there is no description of the expected distribution versus the distribution of the women in the study. The appropriateness of the method is difficult without this. Information on the screening process would be useful - were women simply asked if they received an ID diagnosis, was there more to the process?

5. Line 91 - why is no IRB permission needed for this sort of data collection? If identifiers were not collected, this needs to be stated clearly.

6. Line 101 - the whole paragraph describes Spearmen's correlation, but the data presented in the tables does not show any correlational information. This paragraph does not add any value to the paper.

7. Line 128 - It would be useful to describe the approach, considering the paper being referred to is not in English.

8. Line 152 and table 1 - age categories would be useful to show.

9. Line 271 - It is also assumed that women who have ID seek treatment for it, this should also be elucidated, not merely assumed that all patients be treated.

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

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Needs some language corrections before being published

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