

## **Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Gender differences in patients with dizziness and unsteadiness regarding self-perceived disability, anxiety, depression, and its associations

**Version:** 4 **Date:** 7 November 2011

**Reviewer:** KATHRINE JAUREGUI-RENAUD

### **Reviewer's report:**

The reader should know, from the Introduction, that the data for this study were primarily collected to investigate the validity and reliability of the German version of the DHI.

Since the study is aimed to compare the prevalence of anxiety and depression in women and men of the study-population with the one of a German speaking general population, the introduction should give the reader a better background, about the relationship between gender and anxiety and depression in the general population, including the influence of several factors.

The cut-off criteria used to interpret the HADS are described twice (Background and Methods).

If the study is descriptive and the analysis is just exploratory, the paragraph about the aims of the study should be rewritten, to state that this is an exploratory analysis to identify trends, instead of "hypothesizing".

Authors should support the use of the total scores to compare means, according to each scale development and validity.

In the Methods section, authors should state clearly that the study size and data collection were not designed to compare groups and to estimate prevalence.

Since this is an exploratory study and patients with vestibular migraine and Meniere disease have shown significantly higher prevalence of anxiety and depression than patients with vestibular neuritis and benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (Ketola2007, Eckhardt-Henn 2008), the reader would appreciate a description of any effect of this factor on the results.

The limitations of the study are still not fully described.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.