Reviewer’s report

Title: Inter-rater agreement and reliability of the COSMIN (COnsensus-based Standards for the selection of health status Measurement Instruments) Checklist

Version: 2 Date: 26 August 2010

Reviewer: Jan Kottner

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to see this manuscript again. The authors have responded to every comment and from my view this paper is an important contribution for the validation of the COSMIN checklist. I have only one small comment.

- Major Compulsory Revisions
  None

- Minor Essential Revisions
  None

- Discretionary Revisions
  Statistical analysis, sixth paragraph and your response to my third comment on the first version: In the manuscript and your response you state that “The calculation of kappa coefficients for multi-nominal classifications is not possible because of our complex design.” In my view this is only partly true, because you had a quite simple but strong design and the reliability coefficients e.g. proposed by Fleiss (1971) and Landis and Koch (1977) clearly correspond to one-way designs for multinominal data. The method proposed by Landis and Koch (1977) is especially suitable for unbalanced designs. Additionally Fleiss and Cuzick (1979) proposed a reliability coefficient for dichotomous data also for unequal numbers of raters per object/subject from a contingency table point of view which has also a one way interpretation.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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