Reviewer's report

Title: An accurate and efficient identification of children with problems by means of Computerized Adaptive Testing

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Reviewer: Frans J.M. Feron

Reviewer's report:

This article is very interesting for the field of youth health care and shows us promising results regarding the future applicability of the used Computerized Adaptive Test (CAT). Actually this is not a test in the proper sense of the word, but an anamnestic assessment tool. The authors correctly point out that additional research is needed, aimed at a large scale replication in a real-life administration. However, because this CAT is to be used as a web-based real-life tool, also the aspects security (privacy, confidentiality) and respondent verification should be subjects for further research of this tool. With enthusiasm and great interest I look forward to the results of further research on this tool.

Some minor remarks:
1. page 2, line 2: "can can" should be "can";
2. page 4, line 6: "oureachingly" is linguistically incorrect;
3. page 8, line 8: "specificity" should be "specificity";
4. page 17, references 1-5: I think these references do not fit to this article;
5. page 24, item CBCL 97: "threatens" should be "threatens";
6. Figure 1 & 2: I think these graphics deserve a better layout.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare I have no competing interests'