Reviewer's report

Title: Using the random forest method to detect a response shift in the quality of life of multiple sclerosis patients: a cohort study

Version: 2 Date: 2 January 2013

Reviewer: Peter Jongen

Reviewer's report:

This paper addresses the detection of a response shift in health-related quality of life in MS patients. Response shift is an important topic with implications for both clinical research and patient care. The statistics used and the related technicalities are fundamental to this work. A full understanding of the papers qualities therefore require a statistical expertise which I do not possess, to my regret.

From a neurological point of view I have no comments. The study is well-designed and the fact that patients were recruited in 32 centres in 12 countries increasea the validity of the findings. I suggest to add an appendix indicating the participating investigators and centres.

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 that I have no competing interests.