Author's response to reviews

Title: Assessing the validity of the Global Activity Limitation Indicator in fourteen European countries

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Version: 6 Date: 15 October 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
London October 15th, 2014

Dear Editor,

Dear reviewers,

We thank the Editor and reviewers for the opportunity to submit a new version of the manuscript. We appreciated the additional comments of the second reviewer. Below you find our reply to these comments. We hope to have answered to all of the concerns raised. We think that the changes made during the review process have improved the manuscript.

**Discretionary revisions:**

1. Measurement

“While the form of scoring (sum of limitations) the ADL and IADL limitations is amply justified, it is not so with the way of scoring (three categories GALI mode) functional limitations (FL). For instance, while the association found in this study between FL and GALI was significantly lower than that found between ADL (and IADL) limitations and GALI, Verbrugge et al. (ref. 13 in the manuscript) found the opposite pattern, scoring FL as a count of functional limitations (although the overall indicator used to measure global disability was not GALI).”

**Reply**

Verbrugge et al. (ref. 13) indeed used different measures of activity limitations than the GALI (which includes reference to impairment). We justified in the text why we used an ordinal variable of functional limitation (FL). Furthermore, our results are consistent across analyses as FL also has a lower association with the GALI in the dichotomous models. For these reasons, we decided not to modify the text.

2. Abstract

“I have some doubts that the phrase "We suspect cross-country differences in the results may be due to variations in: the implementation of the EHIS, the perception of functioning and limitations, and the understanding of the GALI question " is appropriate in paragraph "Results": Conclusions?”

**Reply**

The sentence is an important component of the results interpretation and would not fit in the conclusions section of the abstract. We decided not to modify the text.