Reviewer's report

Title: Development and psychometric testing of the Visual Analogue Scale for Irritable Bowel Syndrome (VAS-IBS)

Version: 2 Date: 18 March 2007

Reviewer: Nicholas J Talley

Reviewer's report:

General

I have re-read the paper.

The methods state the recall period was 1 week but the questionnaire states 1 month. Which is correct?

I am still concerned the English phrasing of the instrument is clumsy. It needs to be validated in English and this should be explicitly stated.

Diarrhea and constipation mean different things to different people. This may be a concern in terms of reliability.

I'd like to see data expressed in the abstract rather than generalities.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interests.