Reviewer's report

Title: Assessment of fall-related self-efficacy and activity avoidance in people with Parkinson's disease

Version: 1 Date: 20 May 2010

Reviewer: Kim Delbaere

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The main aim of this paper is to evaluate psychometric properties of the FES and SAFFE assessments of fear of falling in people with PD.

I would like to see more detailed information on fear of falling in PD in the introduction (personally I feel paragraph 3 is unnecessary).

In the procedure, could you please state whether the participants were in the on-phase or off-phase. Were all participants assessed in roughly the same phase of their on-off cycle?

The statistical analyses could be more concise:

- internal reliability: Cronbach alpha for whole scale + Pearson’s correlations between items
- Test–retest reliability: intra-class coefficient between scores obtained at time 1 and time 2
- Validity: independent t-tests (use parametric if you can, by normalizing your data) examining between-group differences in total scores according to age, etc.

You have now also included correlations between the FOF scales and PF, TUGT, UPDRS, etc. It would be better if you would examine between-group differences in total scores according to those measures (by dichotomizing them).

- I do not understand how you analysed floor and ceiling effects. Could you explain this more clearly. Also, please include the distribution (skewness).

Some general points in the discussion:

Please note that a Cronbach’s alpha should be above 0.70 without exceeding 0.90.

On page 13, you present new results. If you would like to expand the scope of your paper to evaluating the level of FOF in people with PD, the paper will need to be rewritten accordingly.

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.