Reviewer's report

Title: Staging mobility, transfer and walking functions of elderly persons based on the codes of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health

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Reviewer: Helena Burger

Reviewer's report:

ICF elderly Japanese

1. Article is interesting and ICF based scales are needed. But authors have to do some changes. Question is well defined in the abstract but not also in the main text. From the introduction part it is also not clear why question is important.

2. Abstract – add number of participants

3. Introduction:
   a. Illustration of ICF component level not necessary – delete lines 58 – 61
   b. Sentence in lines 68 – 70 – why? Add relevant references, which demonstrate it. If that is only authors’ opinion, should not be in the introduction.
   c. Lines 71 – 72 – ADL scales are not measuring quality of life
   d. Lines 72 – 73 – add relevant reference
   e. Line 76 – add dot at the end of the sentence
   f. Lines 78 – add description of “Guttman-type” scales.
   g. Lines 85 – 90 not introduction – mixture of results and discussion – delete it here
   h. Line 93 – add relevant reference

i. Methods:
   j. Line 105 d4153b instead of a?
   k. Add explanation of all codes into appendix, it will be more clearly or at least in a table
   l. Line 128 – how were elderly measured? Did they have to perform the activities?
   m. Line 131 – add description of health professionals
   n. Line 143 – why did not include all only 300? Add more about Rasch – what and how they did

o. Add inclusion and exclusion criteria

4. Results:
   a. Line 150 – add why other were not eligible for this study
b. Line 152 – tables 1 and 2 not only 1

c. Paragraph (lines 163 – 167) is not clear – there is nothing about it in the methods.

d. Line 168 – delete, is already in line 166

5. Discussion:

a. Line 186 – do not understand that sentence

b. Line 190 – only image about mobility, transfers and walking – not a whole clear image

c. Paragraph (lines 192 – 1979 is repetition of paragraph one in discussion, delete it.

d. WHO suggested using all relevant codes from ICF and not only some. Add something about it in discussion.

e. Table 1: what does it mean: at the end of line 6?

f. Add legend to table 2 (*)

6. Appendix 1 - delete, does not add anything to clarification of the study

7. Figure 1: maintain sitting position – for how long?

8. Figure 2:

a. Number 1 – change walk into move

b. Walking safely already include also walking outside

c. At number 4 – instead going out change into cannot use public transportation

d. In the upper part – delete going out, leave only using public transportation

9. Figure 3: Mobility and walking scale – with four chosen ICF codes it is not possible to distinguish between category three and four. Add into discussion the explanation and how did they decide which codes from a boarder list will use for a scale.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests'.