Reviewer's report

Title: Pain in elderly people with severe dementia: A systematic review of behavioural pain assessment tools.

Version: 1 Date: 3 September 2005

Reviewer: Sanna Salanterä

Reviewer's report:

General

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

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

1. Minor language corrections: Abstract; TWENTY NINE instead of nigh, page 13 para2. first sentence "...is AN assessment tool", page 14 para1. were able TO use., page 19 para2 "GiveN the scoring complexity..." page 20, para1. "So THIS quality needS to be..." page 22 para1. "created AN artificial...", page 23, last para. "OuR review...", page 24 last para. "... concerns about sample sizeS and..."

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

1. Background (page 4, para. 1): Rather than giving figures about the Netherlands, the international readers woul be interested to see figures eg. about OECD-countries.
2. Background. It would have been interesting to have some specualtions not only about underdetection and undertreatment but also about how we with proper and systematic assessment we can target correct type of treatment and follow the success of the treatment systematically.
3. Search strategy: was Mesh-terminology utilized and also such terms as "tool" and "instrument" covered?
4. Methods: page 9, para. 2: For quality check, give the exact number of peer reviewed data.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

"I declare that I have no competing interests"