Reviewer's report

**Title:** Is the Kidney Disease Quality of Life-36 (KDQOL-36) a valid instrument for Chinese dialysis patients?

**Version:** 4  **Date:** 22 September 2014

**Reviewer:** Rommel Bataclan

**Reviewer's report:**

Before I begin, it is my understanding that the general objective of your study is to determine the validity and reliability of the Cantonese Chinese KDQOL 36. Specifically, your group measured Criterion, Discriminative & Convergent Validity and Test-Retest Reliability.

**Major Revisions/ Queries**

- Regarding criterion validity, your group compared KDQOL-36 with KDQOL-SF. I assume you also administered the KDQOL-SF in these patients. I think you should include in the methodology when KDQOL-SF was administered, in relation to KDQOL-36 (time frame, before/after?).

- Still on criterion validity, why there was no correlation measurements on the "Burden of Kidney Disease", "Symptoms and problems" and "Effects on daily life" (only PCS & MCS)?

- My understanding about discriminative validity is that it should test that "Non-overlapping factors really don't overlap", not whether results would differ from one subgroup to another. In this case, KDQOL-36, which is a test of "Quality of Life" should be compared with another questionnaire that measures an unrelated variable, perhaps for example, knowledge on hypertension. So I think, you did not measured really this type of validity. And as with other validities, an r-value using a statistical measurement was computed, so what was the statistical measurement used?

- For convergent validity, KDQOL-36 was compared with HADS, which only contains questions about the Emotional Aspect. How about the other aspects in KDQOL-36 such as the "Symptoms" and "Burden of Kidney Problems"?

**Minor Essential Revisions**

- p-value computation in Table 1 (Patient Characteristics) to really determine if the groups really differ from each other.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests