Author's response to reviews

Title: Observational Skills Assessment Score: reliability in measuring amount and quality of use of the affected hand in unilateral Cerebral Palsy

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Mr. Josefino M. Rodis
Journal editorial office
BMC Neurology

Dear Mr. Josefino M. Rodis,

On behalf of all authors, I hereby send you the revised manuscript “Observational Skills Assessment Score: reliability in measuring amount and quality of use of the affected hand in unilateral Cerebral Palsy” (version final 5), as you asked me in your mail from September 9th.

We revised the paper according to the editors’ comments.

1. 3rd paragraph: If capacity is well defined in the beginning of the manuscript, this word can be used alone later on in the manuscript, for example in the following sentence: "Use of the affected hand is stimulated but not obliged in the AHA. We felt the need for an instrument that measures the potential capacity of the affected hand in bimanual skills.
   In paragraph 1 of the background session a definition of capacity is given. Therefore, the word “potential” of “potential capacity” is deleted.

2. 3rd paragraph: I suggest rewriting "unilaterally" in the description of MUUL.
   Maybe you can write "one hand at a time" instead: "Furthermore, it measures one hand at a time and contains tasks that are usually not done by the assisting hand.
   In final version 4, we already changed unilaterally for one hand at a time: “In hindsight this is not surprising because the MUUL contains many items relating to target accuracy, and these are unlikely to be influenced by BoNT-A. Furthermore, it measures one hand at a time and contains tasks that are usually not done by the assisting hand.” We did not change unilateral capacity in paragraph 2 of the background session, because these are the words Gilmore et al used in their article, and unilateral capacity is a kind of conception.

Abstract: OSAS measures amount and quality of use of the affected hand
.......... in bimanual skills... (Maybe write bimanual tasks or activities instead of bimanual skills?) In the first paragraph of the abstract we changed it already in final version 4 in “activities”. In this version it was changed also in the conclusion of the abstract.

We tried to format the manuscript to the journal style. Figure 2 Reliability assessments, is in the manuscript and as a cropped PowerPoint file uploaded in figures. I noticed that in the former version the “+” under age 2.5-6 between 10 x 3 tapes t2 and 6 x 3 tapes, has moved in another, inappropriate position. Therefore, we copy pasted it in the manuscript also.

We hope that the revised paper will meet the high standards of BMC Neurology. Please let me know if there are still any adaptations needed. Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain
Yours sincerely

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