Reviewer's report

Title: Development of a Short Form and Scoring Algorithm from the Validated Actionable Multiple Sclerosis Bladder Health Screening Tool

Version: 4 Date: 10 December 2012

Reviewer: Angelo Ghezzi

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COMMENT

In this interesting paper a shortened form of the Actionable Multiple Sclerosis Bladder Health Screening Tool (AMSBHST) has been validated in a cohort of 151 MS patients. This questionnaire showed to have a high sensitivity and specificity. The authors conclude that it could be an useful tool in clinical practice to detect urinary dysfunction in MS patients.

Some comments:

Section Background is too long, I suggest to delete the presentation of AMSBHST - from line 2, page 7 to line 3, page 8), to move this text to section discussion, and only to give a brief summary of this questionnaire.

The issue of treatment is not relevamt (line 14 to 17, page 6), on the contrary some guidelines have been proposed for the evaluation of urinary disorders in MS (from UK-Fowler, France -De Seze-, Italy -Ghezzi), and they should be mentioned, as more strictly related to the topic of this study.

Finally, the IPSS scale has also been tested in MS (Nortwedt, MS 2007, 13:106), this study should be mentioned and included in section Discussion.

References 2-10 (line 11, page 6) are probably not appropriate, ref. 11 is probably incorrect, and probably substituted by ref. 7

The mean age of the population was 48.2 years, MS diagnosis was made 9.1 before. The present age as well as the age of MS onset of this population are higher than expected: can this finding have influenced the results? Were mainly primary progressive patients included? It could be meaningful to have some additional information on the MS population included in this study. The severity of their symptoms was mild in 70% of cases, moderate in 23.8%, severe in 1.3: which scale did the Authors use?