Reviewer's report

Title: The size of the treatment effect: do patients and proxies agree?

Version: 3 Date: 27 October 2008

Reviewer: Alessandra Solari

Reviewer's report:

Major point 2. The authors do NOT acknowledge the high attrition in the discussion section (they only refer to the limited size of the study, that is another limitation of the study).

Major point 3. The authors comment that they did not use the ICC to assess agreement between patients and proxies, since in another study ICC values were low because of a lack of variance of the sample. This is not a reason for omitting such analysis, which in my view should in any case be presented, and commented.

I also note that on table 3 the authors present separate effect sizes for not improved and improved patients, instead of a more appropriate responsiveness ratio.