Reviewer's report

**Title:** Cross-cultural adaptation and psychometric properties of the Brazilian-Portuguese version of the VSP-A (Vecu et Sante Percue de l'Adolescent), a health-related quality of life (HRQoL) instrument for adolescents

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 7 June 2010

**Reviewer:** Christine Limbers

**Reviewer's report:**

The purpose of this study was to cross-culturally adapt and validate the Brazilian-Portuguese version of the VSP-A. Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript. The manuscript is well-written and the study has a number of strengths including the large sample size and the breadth of statistical tests utilized. Despite these strengths, the current manuscript has some limitations that need to be addressed prior to publication. These are enumerated below.

**Major Revisions**

**Title**
- Given that this validation study was performed in a strictly healthy population, this needs to be more explicitly stated in the title.

**Introduction**
- Please address in the Introduction whether there are other HRQOL measures that have been validated for Brazilian adolescents. It is mentioned in the Discussion section that the PedsQL and CHQ have been validated for Brazilian adolescents. In the Introduction section, the advantages of the Brazilian-Portuguese version of the VSP-A over these other measures needs to be addressed. Also, while the benefits of self-report are emphasized in the Introduction, there are also times when parent proxy-report will be important given that parents’ perceptions of their adolescents often drive healthcare utilization and some adolescents may be unable to self-report due to cognitive deficits. Please discuss this.

**Methods**
- Please clarify whether parents, teens, or both signed informed consent forms.
- Since students were asked if they would agree to be interviewed again at about 2 weeks, do you believe there is some potential for bias in the test-retest data? This needs to be addressed.
- More information is needed about the pilot testing of this measure. For example, what procedures were used, what were the results, what were the demographics of the 14 adolescents? It might be useful for the authors to include a separate appendix where a greater level of detail about the pilot testing and translation process is included.
- Why did the authors not examine the chi-square statistic?
- How was whether an adolescent had a major life event occur in the 2 week test-retest time frame assessed? If adolescents reported on this, do you think there is a possibility that adolescents would underreport the occurrence of a major life event? How might this impact the findings?

Results
- Please put the p-values in the text of the manuscript.
- Please clarify how the mean completion time was computed.

Discussion section
- This is nicely written.