Reviewer’s report

Title: Variation of health-related quality of life assessed by caregivers and patients affected by severe childhood infections

Version: 1 Date: 17 May 2013

Reviewer: Rianne Oostenbrink

Reviewer’s report:

The authors very well improved the paper, the message is much more clear, and conclusions better supported by results, and discussed well.

Major compulsory revisions:
From figure 1 and 2 it seems that not all measures ranked all sequelae similar. this does not have to become clear from correlation studies. So please provide information on ranking of the sequelae by the different measures (as difference in ranking by different measures is a larger problem than just numerical differences (that may be corrected by introducing a correction factor)). And is comparison of means the preferred way, as most scores do not show a normal distribution. Could you inform on ceiling/floor effects of the different measures?

Minor essential revisions:
Please provide information on how the QOL measures were applied to patients and proxies. the measures mostly are questionnaires, that can be completed independently by the patient But in children (aged from 7 in particular) I assume, one needs someone who reads the questions with them. how was the interviewer instructed, as questions need to be posed standardized, without providing explanations that may influence reports?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interests to declare