Reviewer's report

Title: Assessment of musculoskeletal conditions and their impacts in the adolescent population: adaptation and validation of a questionnaire.

Version: Date: 25 October 2013

Reviewer: Cynthia Peterson

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Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. The French version of the NMQ-E questionnaire was used but there is no reference to a paper that translated and validated it into French following standard procedures. This is critical. Was the proper 6 step procedure of Beaton, Bombardier followed for the original questionnaire used for this study? Please provide this reference if it exists. Also state in the methods section that the French version was properly translated and culturally adapted according to standard procedures if this is true. If no such paper exists, unfortunately it calls the rest of the study into question.

2. Was ethics approval not needed? There is no mention of ethics approval in the paper. It does state that written informed consent was obtained. Please confirm that ethics approval was waived if this is true.

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. The clinic records were used as a 'gold standard'. How do you know these records are complete and accurate? Are regular audits performed? Perhaps in a teaching clinic records are more closely monitored. However, with no details supporting the clinic records as a gold standard, this assumption is worrying. Normally the validity would be tested against other similar questionnaires. Were none available? This is a Limitation.

2. The test-retest data collections occurred prior to and after the clinical consultation. It is not stated whether or not a treatment occurred during this consultation. It must be assumed that it did not, but it is not stated. Is that the policy of the clinic not to treat on the initial visit? Please include this information.

3. Although basically well written, there are still numerous errors throughout the paper. One common improvement in the English would be to always write 'associated with' rather than 'associated to'. This occurs frequently in the paper. Please have a native English as first language speaker carefully correct the grammar. Several times the subject (singular or plural) does not match the verb (singular or plural).

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.