Reviewer's report

Title: Health related quality of life of Dutch children: psychometric properties of the PedsQL in the Netherlands

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Reviewer: Ru Ding

Reviewer's report:

This is a prospective study to report health related quality of life of Dutch children using PedsQL. The sample size (n=496) is decent. Since BMC Pediatrics has no space constraints, I think this manuscript can give us more detail. Specific comments are provided below:

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. I’m unclear as to ‘within-group’ difference in this manuscript. The ‘group’ in this study means age group sometime, but healthy vs. chronic disease group some time.
2. In Abstract, what’s the denominator of ’55.7%’, total number of the approached should be reported, or just delete ’55.7%’.
3. What’s definition of ‘non-participants’? I didn’t find out how 81 non-participants are made up. Why 81 non-participants had 82 parents who completed the questionnaire? (Table 1)
4. Bonferroni adjusted P value should be indicated in the manuscript.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. In abstract, The main outcomes, PedsQL total scores, construct validity and effect sizes, can be reported in the result.
2. Reference the statistical method used (Chronbach’s alpha coefficient)
3. Sampling scheme is reported in the procedure section, but the result of sampling is not reported in the result section. It’s very helpful for readers to know if the study result can be generalized to the whole Dutch children population.
4. How does the sample (N=496) distribute by location and percent of migrant children?
5. Since no table on “within-group difference”, mean difference +/- sd can be reported in the Results, together with p value.

Discretionary Revisions
1. Page 9, Para 4, only one child in group 5-7 received psychological care, so it’s not worth to do comparison.
2. In Discussion, PedsQL scores can be compared with other populations.
3. This study found a relationship between education level and HRQOL. How is
education level associated with parents’ gender, ethnicity and employment status? Adjusting for other demographics, is there still a significant relationship between education and HRQOL?

4. Internal consistency coefficients for school function are quite low (0.53-0.62), which might be worth to discuss.

5. A graphic presentation of the results would be very helpful. For example, a figure shows the different PedsQL scale scores by group.

Thank you for the opportunity and privilege to review your work.

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:

I declare that I have no competing interests.