Reviewer's report

Title: Screening for autism and AD/HD. The A-TAC: further validation of a telephone interview in clinical and population samples.

Version: 2 Date: 17 April 2009

Reviewer: Morten Hesse

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript is scientifically sound and well-written. I am not a native English speaker myself, but it is my impression that the English is very good. I have found some very minor typos (which might me described as "minor essential revisions", except they are hardly essential):

Page 4, introduction: Highdegree should be in two words

Page 7-8 The sentence “whether or not there were problems for which the endorsed symptoms had led to. (1) dysfunction at school, among peers, or at home, or (2) suffering on the part of the child.” might be rewritten. Something like: “whether or not the symptom described had led to problems, such as (1) dysfunction at school, among peers, or at home, or (2) distress for the child.”

Page 8: “It is intended...” is a bit confusing. What is “it”? I believe “it” is the A-TAC, and if so, it should be “The A-TAC is intended for ...”

The word "Sesitivity" over table 2 should be "Sensitivity"

And three discretionary revisions (which the authors can choose to ignore):

The authors might consider reporting the average duration of the interviews (range, standard deviation or interquartile range, etc).

The authors might mention that only a Swedish version of the instrument is available at this point.

The authors might discuss potential screening utility of the "gate" items.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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