Reviewer’s report

Title: Establishing the reliability and validity of the Zagazig Depression Scale in a UK student population: a pilot study

Version: 1 Date: 5 September 2010

Reviewer: salah aburuz

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Re: Establishing the reliability and validity of the Zagazig Depression Scale in a UK student population: a pilot study

Major Compulsory Revisions

Method section:

1. The procedure section should follow the design section
2. The authors should mention if they have obtained ethical approval or the reason why they didn’t
3. In the method section, the authors stated that the study was conducted on students from a range of UK universities while in the abstract it is mentioned that the study was conducted on students from Nottingham University. Please explain the reason for this discrepancy and correct.
4. The authors should explain the methodology for establishing the concurrent validity, construct validity and reliability in the method section
5. Sample size calculation should be provided
6. In the method section the authors should indicate how they interpreted the different statistical test they have used (kappa, r correlation coefficient, Cronbach’s alpha) and should provide references for their interpretations

Discussion

7. The data provide does not show a very good evidence of construct validity. The authors should mention this in their limitations and explain the reasons behind this
8. Test-retest reliability is a very important indicator of the reliability of a scale. This was not investigated in this study. The authors should explain why they did not do this important test and should mention this as part of the limitations of the study.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable
**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests