Reviewer's report

Title: Psychometric Properties of the Chinese Craving Beliefs Questionnaire for Heroin Abusers in Methadone Treatment

Version: 3 Date: 24 January 2011

Reviewer: Enrica Marzola

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript: “Psychometric Properties of the Chinese Craving Beliefs Questionnaire for Heroin Abusers in Methadone Treatment” written by Chun-Wei Chang and Colleagues aims to provide data about the validation of the Chinese version of the Craving Beliefs Questionnaire (CCBQ) for heroin abusers.

Despite this article could have a potential in clinical practice, some issues should be addressed by the authors:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. Inclusion/exclusion criteria are not clear: what about psychiatric and medical comorbidity? Was comorbid alcohol abuse assessed? Please explain. The lack of comorbidity assessment should be highlighted as a limitation of the study.
2. How many subjects refused to be enrolled in this study?
3. How long did the enrollment last?
4. It could be useful to explain why the authors chose to recruit heroin abusers in a prison to collect pilot data. Are they a reliable sample?
5. It could be useful to have a table showing sociodemographic data of the sample including onset of heroin abuse and how long they had been previously in treatment.
6. Page 7 line 3: the authors state that the final CCBQ adopted 20 revised items rated on a 5-point percent scale; then (page 10, line 3) they say that the final version of the CCBQ contains 19 items; in Table 1 are reported 20 items but #19 is missing. The authors should better explain what is the final version.
7. Page 5 line 9: APA reference is missing in the text.
8. Page 6 line 2: Wright’s CBQ reference is missing both in the text and in the reference section.

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. Some references are not correctly reported in the reference section (colon or comma before pages?)
2. Page 5, line 13: please better explain “fifth”.

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