Reviewer's report

Title: Comparative psychometric analyses of the SCL-90-R and its short versions in patients with affective disorders

Version: 3 Date: 14 February 2013

Reviewer: Mitsunao Tomioka

Reviewer's report:

I reviewed your article again. I request you following reconsideration.

Discretionary Revisions

1. In response to my question, you showed us a model of confirmatory factor analysis. You should describe why you chose different models between SCL-90-R and its short version. In short version, you're assuming the covariance of all pairs of subscales. In SCL-90-R, you chose different model. For example, somatization factor was assumed covariance with only ZWAN factor. This different modeling would read heterogeneous results. Please show the logical reason of that in your article.

2. (Page 11, Line2) You described “construct-unrelated scales”. Would you say that there is no relationship between depressive symptoms and non-depressive symptoms of SCL-90-R and short versions? In fact, you assumed correlations in confirmatory factor analysis between depression and other symptoms. There are conflicting statements in this paper.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. (Page 7, Line 20) You described “neither significantly differ from nor correlate highly with the scale and .... of SCL-90-R long version.” Do you expect low correlation between short versions and long version?

2. (Page 10, Line 6 of 3.4 convergent and discriminant....) with the BDI total score (r=0.71). Properly is 0.77.

3. (Page 11, Line 3 of 3.5 Sensitivity to change...) the effect sizes ranged between d=0.52 for the SCL-27 and d=0.67 for the BSI and BSI-18. Effect size of SCL-14 is 0.68 and larger.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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'