Reviewer's report

Title: Psychometric properties of the abbreviated version of the Scale to Assess Unawareness in Mental Disorder in schizophrenia

Version: 2 Date: 21 July 2013

Reviewer: Rikke Jørgensen

Reviewer's report:

Overall this paper addresses two important and relevant issues: Insight, and how to approach missing data in validation of instruments. Therefore the paper will be of great interest to a variety of readers, both researchers and clinicians. The detailed description and argumentation of the methods and the two models might serve as inspiration or model for other researcher with an interest in validation of instruments.

This paper is thorough and well written. The study sample of 531 is remarkably compared to prior validation studies of insight instruments, and strengthens the quality of the study.

The purpose and scope of the study is clear and well defined, and the choice of the two scoring models to address missing values seems a clever choice as it provides more strength and transparency to the validation. The discussion and conclusion is relevant and clear.

The authors are very clear of both strength and limitations, which add to the quality of the paper.

Minor Essential Revisions:

Regarding Table 1: Data collection and contents of the four databases – this table does not provide much new knowledge compared to the content already written in the methods section. Why not exchange the x with data? Even though the statistical analysis is calculated with the total sample, the characteristics of the participants from the four studies could be in the interest to readers.

Regarding Figure 1 and Figure 2: LISREL Confirmatory structural model (1+2) – the figures are a bit blurred and hard to read, the quality could be improved. And the headline is in the last box in the left side in both figures. It might be mine printer that causes this low reading quality, but it must be addressed regarding publication to provide the paper with readable figures.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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 below.