Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluation of the Edinburgh Post Natal Depression Scale using Rasch analysis

Version: 1 Date: 2 March 2006

Reviewer: Per Bech

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From a Rasch analysis point-of-view the study is performed technically correct. However, it is important that the authors indicate much more clearly that the Rasch analysis is a validation procedure, e.g. in the measurement process, to avoid item bias, but the Rasch analysis is not a test of clinical validity. The Edinburgh Post-Natal Depression Scale has clinical validity for depression, but the validation analysis by means of the Rasch model has identified item 7 as being biased when measuring the dimension of depressive states. It is, however, difficult to understand why item 8 (I have felt sad and miserable) also was found problematic. This is counterintuitive. The authors should treat this problem more clearly in the discussion section.