Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 10 April 2006

Reviewer: Henri Chabrol

Reviewer's report:

General I thank the authors for the detailed replies to the issues I raised. I am globally satisfied with the modifications they presented. However, I suggest some more comments to be added to the discussion.

To delete such item 8 which has a high face validity may need some more data. I suggest to mention that a replication study would be useful.

The fact that the original EPDS is not unidimensional is not necessarily a disadvantage for the clinician or the researchers. It allows to measure both anxious and depressive symptoms.

To convince clinicians and researchers to use a shortened version of the EPDS needs to present evidence-based advantages. The EPDS-8 has to prove it has better screening capacities than the original EPDS.

The authors should quote the study by Chabrol and Teissèdre who reported exploratory and confirmatory factorial analyses supporting the bi or tridimensional structure of the EPDS.


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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No