Reviewer's report

Title: Factor Analysis of the Zung Self-Rating Depression Scale in Patients with Major Depressive Disorder in Primary Care.

Version: 2 Date: 18 September 2007

Reviewer: Toshinori Kitamura

Reviewer's report:

Previously I recommended the use of a confirmatory factor analysis (CFA). The authors, however, avoided it and rather used an exploratory factor analysis (EFA) using a portion of the participants and then used the other portion of them to conform the repeatability of the factor structure. However, I do not think this procedure is equivalent to the goodness of fit of the factor structure to the actual data. This can only be assured by the use of a CFA. I strongly recommend the authors just to write GFI, AGFI, CFI, and RMSEA of their three-factor structure. This will suffice.

Does the following sentence make any sense? On note a 3-factor solution was tested using the same statistical approach and rejected since the 3-factor structure emerged explained less of the total variance (3.3%), presented items loading in more one the factor and items with low factor weights (< 0.25).

The authors may wish to comment on the differences of the factor structures of this scale between patient and non-patient populations.

Minor recommendations

Reference 17 Chena should read Chen.

Reference 19 Kanga should read Kanda.

With the above revision, I would think this manuscript should be accepted for publication.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions