Reviewer’s report

Title: Three versions of Perceived Stress Scale: validation in a sample of Chinese cardiac patients who smoke

Version: 1 Date: 20 May 2010

Reviewer: Håkan Källmen

Reviewer’s report:

1. The research question is clearly stated and operationalized in the introduction.
2. The methods used to investigate and reach the aim is appropriate and described, however to measure health status, nicotine dependency, anxiety and depression with a single item each is not appropriate and explain the low correlations with PSS.
3. The data used is however the weakness. The aim was to assess the psychometric properties of the scales in cardiac patients but it would be more interesting with a population based sample and a more general aim.
4. Yes the manuscript adhere to standard reporting of psychometrics.
5. The discussion and conclusions are mainly supported by the data but the concurrent validity seems to be low probably due to single item measurements of health related variables.
6. The authors confess the limitations in generalizability to those who do not smoke but do not discuss the appropriateness in using single items when measuring health related variables.
7. The authors list several studies measuring validity and reliability of other versions of PSS that this study is built upon.
8. The title and abstract do convey what has been found although the correlations with health, anxiety and depression are rather low.
9. >The writing is as I judge it good.

Minor essential revisions:

The P-values for each #2 in the confirmatory factor analyses in table 1 is missing. It could be interesting to know if the model stated is significantly differed from data.

An discussion about the low correlations with health related variables is called for. Ö