Reviewer’s report

Title: Development and validation of sunlight exposure measurement questionnaire (SEM-Q) in an adult population residing in Pakistan.

Version: 1 Date: 25 January 2012

Reviewer: Monika Janda

Reviewer’s report:

The authors aimed to develop and validate a questionnaire of sunlight exposure. Validation was performed against UV dosimeters. This is an interesting and challenging topic. However, several aspects of the current manuscript are unclear and need further revisions to obtain a clear picture of exactly has been done.

Major compulsory revision

1) Please state if this is a completely new questionnaire or a translation of an existing questionnaire. There are several areas in the manuscript where this is unclear, e.g. the forward backward translation, which would indicate translation of an existing instrument, and mention in the discussion first paragraph that the questionnaire is adapted. On the other hand the last sentence in the introduction and first sentence in the discussion seems to indicate that it is a new questionnaire.

2) Table 1, please provide a full copy of the questionnaire. From the current description it is impossible to obtain a clear picture of its properties. Why was a different administration mode chosen for the LT and ST forms of the questionnaire and what are the implications of this?

Table 3: Please clarify if second line PS Uv dosimeters is given in MED? Please explain in the footnote what adjusted time is?

There is the superscript letter c without corresponding footnote.

Table 4: It is indicated in this table that adjusted time is a measure of time adjusted for sun protection and weather, it is unclear how that adjustment has been performed?

3) Please provide more detail on the dosimeter distribution, collection, transport, data extraction, laboratory specifics and reliability of dosimeter measurements.

4) Rather than correlations should Bland Altman plots have been used to assess agreement between questionnaire scores and dosimeter readings?

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.