Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 28 January 2012

Reviewer: mary saridi

Reviewer's report:

1. The question is posed by the authors is well defined
2. The methods of this paper are well described and enough appropriate. I think the questionnaires must be more analyzed.
3. The data are enough sound.
4. The manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition also.
5. The results must be structured with more data
6. The discussion has to redefined. You may add some more resent references about sun exposure habits in children adolescences(KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES RELATED TO SUN EXPOSURE AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN GREECE. Saridi M., Pappa V.,Kyriazis I.Toska A. ,Giolis A.,Liachopoulou A., Skliros E.,Birbas K. RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH)
7. The limitations must be written after discussion in a separate part and not scattered into the discussion
8. As I said in the discussion the literature has to be more recent and representative
9. The title presents the meaning of the study
10. Abstract: I think the part of methodology must be shorter instead of the results that must be bigger. In Key Words you must add sun protection or sun light exposure
11. The writing is acceptable but it has to be checked again, especially the background and the discussion

Discretionary revisions:
1. You may add in your references more resent articles and you may add the following(KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES RELATED TO SUN EXPOSURE AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN GREECE. Saridi M., Pappa V.,Kyriazis I.Toska A. ,Giolis A.,Liachopoulou A., Skliros E.,Birbas K. RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH) in your discussion(15,156, et.c)

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Page 3, Line 5: The word vitamin it has to be written in capital as previeous
2. Page 3, Line12: There is no need to write again all the words (VDD)
3. Page 4, Line14: Pakistans geographically position is similar with many countries all over the World. You can use more literature here and in discussion about this item. Also you could use data from NASA satellite - NASA’s Earth-observing Aura satellite- about the ozone hole.

4. Page 4, Line1-2: You may be right about the questionnaire in Pakistan Population but you could find many others questionnaires studying sun exposure in similar populations like yours.

5. Page 4: Before starting the part of results you have to add Material and methods

6. Page 5, Line1: Better start “As it seems from the recent literature”

7. Page 5, Line4: SEQ and not the whole words

8. Page 5, Line 11-18: You can add some more references

9. Page 5, Line15-20: This has to put it in Limitations part

10. Page 5, Line22: PS, I think you have to write polysulphone if it’s the first time

11. Page 6, Second paragraph: This has to put it in Limitations part

12. Page 7- Material and methods: More information about the questionnaires that were used and the validity(pilot-face…) you used too.

13. Page 7- Factors affecting individual UVR exposure: Many of these must be put in Introduction part

14. Page 8- Development of the scoring system for LT SEM-Q and ST SEM-Q: Only the first three-four lines are needed and must be a part of the “Development of sunlight exposure questionnaires”

15. Page 8- Gold standard for validation of the questionnaires: You refer only about the validation of the UV dosimeters and not about the questionnaires

16. Page 8-9- Study setting and design: A short part of these must be added in material and methods

17. Page 9- Eligibility criteria: Put it in the end of material and methods too

18. Page 9-10- Study protocol: It’s too big. There is no need to explain again all the protocol of your research.

19. Page 10- Potential confounders and sources of bias: Do you think those are limitations? And why you didn’t use a scale for phototype from other studies?

20. Page 11- List of abbreviations: there is no need to submit this.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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' below