Reviewer's report

Title: Translating the Dutch Walking Stairs, Walking Ability and Rising and Sitting Questionnaire into German and assess its construct validity with VAS measures of pain and activity in daily living.

Version: 1 Date: 31 December 2009

Reviewer: Jeremy Fairbank

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1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
Yes – they are looking for outcome measures that can be applied to patients with Complex Regional Pain Syndrome type 1, although this is not clear from the title of the “Translating the Dutch…” paper[1]. This paper looks at 52 patients, the second at 57 – presumably most if not all patients were not in both studies.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
Standard translation models are used. I wonder if VASpain and VASADL could have been used in paper [2] as well? This might have produced more insight into the close correlation of the scales in the upper limb patients compared with what appears to be a wider scatter in the lower limb patients.

3. Are the data sound?
I have no reason to doubt this

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
yes

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
I am happy with the way the data are discussed. There might be lost opportunities in comparing upper and lower limb CRP1 patients – perhaps other work is in presentation on this.

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
yes

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
yes

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
yes

9. Is the writing acceptable?
Yes

I am happy for both papers to be published. The authors might reflect on these points. The papers should refer to each other for search purposes.