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: 25 January 2010

Reviewer: Joy C MacDermid

Reviewer's report:

The method is good and the paper is well written. With some expansion of validity testing this would be an very useful contribution to our ability to measure CRPS symptoms in leg.

Major Essential

I think more validity tests are needed to be confident about this scale since the analyses look at relationships with pain and ADL VAS but provide insufficient proof of unique relationship to CRPS. Why is this 50+ item scale better than a shorter pain or functional measure for the lower limb like the LEFS or WOMAC. I assume it would be uniqueness to CRPS, but the analyses to do not indicate this exists. It seems like some analysis of whether items relate to CRPS is needed.

Minor Essential

I have a few questions.
1. Why so few men in the sample – does this represent CRPS or something about your sample
2. Please explain what surgeries led to CRPS
3. Did you think about using a neuropathic pain scale or some other pain scale like McGill that would pick up qualities of CRPS pain
4. Did you consider methods to look at content validity – either coding to ICF, expert content review or coding to CRPS constructs
5. I am unable to read German- is it possible to provide both instruments so reader can see both
6. Please insure all tables have denominators for scores it is not always clear what the score is based on
7. It would have useful to test a construct around CRPS to see if the scale differentiated different levels of disease.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests