Reviewer's report

Title: A within-subjects trial to test the equivalence of online and paper outcome measures: the Roland Morris Disability Questionnaire

Version: 2 Date: 26 April 2010

Reviewer: Henrik Lauridsen

Reviewer's report:

Reviewer comments:
I have read the answers by the authors, and they have given sound and clear explanations for the questions I raised. Furthermore, all my suggestions have been followed.

I do, however, have one comment. The authors have been suggested to include an ICC as a quantitative metric. The ICC is a measure of reliability or how well patients/respondents can be distinguished from each other, despite measurement error. The general ICC equation contains the inter-respondent and error variance components (1). Thus, it relates the measurement error to the variability between respondents – not within each respondent (2). In my opinion this statistic does not give us any useful information when measuring agreement, but I am aware that the other reviewer is of a different opinion.

If the authors want to include an ICC, I suggest they state which type of ICC they use and whether it is ICCagreement or ICCconsistency (2-4).

Apart from the above, I have no further suggestions or questions for the manuscript.

Reference List


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

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

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

Yours sincerely
Henrik H. Lauridsen