Reviewer's report

Title: Assessment of the general public knowledge about rheumatic diseases: evidence from a Portuguese population-based survey

Version: 2 Date: 31 May 2010

Reviewer: Cesar Ramos-Remus

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Although the second version of the manuscript is much better, I have to disagree with the authors regarding their reply to one of the major problems:

Mayor compulsory revisions:

32% of the participant individuals self-reported a rheumatic disease. The authors mix results from these rheumatic patients –that have already information from a physician- with individuals from general population. It biases their results.

The author’s reply has no sense. As the authors stated in their reply “R: The objective of this study was to identify the knowledge gaps in the overall knowledge about rheumatic diseases in the general population”

Then, rheumatic patients are NOT part of general population in the sense that they are a different group that already had a knowledge mixture (cultural, from rheumatologists, from other physicians, etc.) and they do not represent the “general population”. The main problem is that rheumatic patients are a third of their studied population, and biases their results. These patients either should be excluded, or used as a comparator group.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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