Author’s response to reviews

Title: Validation of a Spanish language version of the Pain Self Perception Scale in patients with fibromyalgia

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Author’s response to reviews:

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Reviewer 1

Minor Essential Revisions

1) The first, minor, point concerns the new sentence in the second paragraph of the background section: “has not been used in one of the most important chronic pain disorders, fibromyalgia (FM)”. This statement leaves me wondering why FM is more important than other chronic pain disorders. I think a more appropriate term to use, which is in fact used by the authors in their response letter, would be “the most prevalent chronic pain disorders, fibromyalgia”. However, I realise that if this change is made it would replicate the argument of the fourth paragraph. Perhaps paragraph 4 could be merged into the second paragraph.

We agree with the reviewer in the sense that FM is not more important than other chronic pain disorders. However, we think it is difficult to merge paragraphs 2 and 4. So we have modified the sentence in the second paragraph: “…one of the most important chronic pain disorders, fibromyalgia (FM)”, and now it reads: “This questionnaire has not been validated in other languages different from English, and it has not been used in fibromyalgia (FM), a chronic pain disorder”.

2) The second point again refers to the background section. I am not sure that the authors fully understood my first comment in the previous review, which stated that the findings of Tang et al (2010) [reference 9], that empirically
distinguish mental defeat from catastrophising, should be cited in the third paragraph of the background section. Specifically, that “mental defeat emerged as the strongest predictor of pain interference, depression and psychosocial disability, whereas catastrophizing was the best predictor of sleep interference, anxiety and functional disability”. In response, the authors have cited the first publication concerning mental defeat by Tang et al [reference 6] not the second paper [reference 9].

To answer adequately to this suggestion we have eliminated the following sentence:

“However, there are no other research studies that replicate these findings. Recently, Tang et al [9] have confirmed that MD is linked to interference, distress and disability in chronic pain.”

And we have added this comment: “In addition, Tang et al [9] have demonstrated that, in chronic pain patients, mental defeat emerged as the strongest predictor of pain interference, depression and psychosocial disability, whereas catastrophizing was the best predictor of sleep interference, anxiety and functional disability.”

3) The new sentence at the end of the conclusion “and in chronic pain patients in general, as have been previously demonstrated” has again cited Tang et al (2007) [reference 6]. However, it should cite Tang et al (2010) [reference 9]. We have deleted in this sentence reference 6 and we have included reference 9.

Discretionary Revisions

4) The additional exclusion criteria added in the participant section “,and predominance of CFS symptoms.” should be changed slightly so that it reads “, predominance of CFS symptoms, and poor knowledge of the Spanish language.”

We have modified the exclusion criteria as the reviewer suggests modifying this sentence: “The exclusion criteria were medical or psychiatric disorders that impede the patient to answer correctly the questionnaire, predominance of CFS symptoms, and poor knowledge of Spanish language.”

And we have eliminated the following sentence to avoid being redundant: “When a patient was simultaneously diagnosed with FM and chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS), FM symptoms (e.g., pain) had to be the predominant symptom from the patient’s point of view.”

In addition, we have modified the tables and the references to adapt the manuscript to the norms of the journal.