Reviewer's report

Title: The Information Needs of People Living with Ankylosing Spondylitis: A Questionnaire Survey

Version: 5  Date: 18 October 2012

Reviewer: erik Lenguerrand

Reviewer's report:

Most of my concerns have been addressed. I have three remaining comments:

Minor Compulsory Revision

- I would like to have seen more detail about the qualitative analysis as it is important that readers can fully understand the procedure used. It may have been helpful if the authors had included a suitable methodological citation in their revised description of the qualitative analysis.

Discretionary Essential Revisions

- This article would have been easier to read if the numerous percentages and frequencies reported in the results section were presented in tables and/or graphs. The text in this section could then be limited to the interpretation of these figures.

- “The statistical comparisons should be formally conducted and tests such as chi-square test could be used.”

- “This is an explanatory giving levels of estimate (confidence intervals). There is no intention to test a hypothesis so no significance is reported.”

I still believe that using a statistical test framework gives more strength to a comparison or avoid any over-interpretation of a describing finding.

For example, the use of a Khi-square test to compare the age distribution of the studied population to the Welsh resident patients diagnosed with AS would have shown no distribution difference; a strength of this study.

On the other hand it would have revealed that the rate of access to the internet in the younger participants is not significantly different to the one of the other participants (ie 20/22 vs 135/189) contrary to what suggested in the following sentence:

“The majority of respondents had access to the internet (73% (155/211); 95%CI: 67% to 79%)) with highest rates among younger participants (91% (20/22); 95%CI: 72% to 97%) aged 20-39.”

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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'