Reviewer's report

Title: Development of the Young Spine Questionnaire

Version: 2 Date: 9 April 2013

Reviewer: Henrica C de Vet

Reviewer's report:

This revised version satisfies most of my comments. I have few minor comments left for their consideration.

With regard to question whether the YSQ is an instrument or a survey, it is a good solution to use the term questionnaire. There are a few places where I doubt whether the text is completely adapted to this:

- Abstract – Conclusions: “The YSQ is a novel self-report measure of spinal pain and its consequences.” A measure suggests that there is one score. You can circumvent that by saying that “The YSQ contains items/questions that assess spinal pain and its consequences”. (In this sentence parental back problems are excluded).

- Page 16, line 7: “We recommend that future validation studies include a thorough evaluation of a final version of the YSQ.” Also here it is suggested that the YSQ can be validated as a whole instrument, while in facts each item (or set of items) should be validated separately. You might include “the items in”: evaluation of the items in the final version of the YSQ

With regard to my comment 3, the authors suggested a sentence which I found hard to understand. “...it is important to distinguish between negligible and significant spinal pain, as this will enable researchers to focus primary prevention on the group of children at increased risk of developing chronic spinal pain.” Is the assumption that only significant spinal pain leads to chronic pain, or do you want to distinguish severity of pain because you want to be able to examine this?

In the abstract the numbers 0.71 and 0.84 are mentioned. In the text and Tables the values 0.67 and 0.79 are reported.

Page 7, first line: I would insert “the severity” .....a pain scale relating to the severity of cervical, thoracic and lumbar spine.

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