Reviewer’s report

Title: A systematic review of the psychometric properties of the Boston Carpal Tunnel Questionnaire

Version: 2 Date: 24 September 2006

Reviewer: Isam Atroshi

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have dealt well with most of the issues. There are a few remaining points that need to be clarified:

1. The meaning of the second part of the purpose is unclear (last sentence in the Background).
2. There is inconsistency in how the “symptom severity scale” and “functional status scale” are written throughout the manuscript with the first letters sometimes being in upper case and sometimes in lower case.
3. Construct validity: the authors use “r” to refer to Cronbach alpha coefficient, which is unusual and probably incorrect.
4. Construct validity: a high Cronbach alpha for both scales does NOT suggest that the 2 scales are separate measures. The statement claiming that it does should be omitted.
5. Construct validity: the meaning of the last sentence is unclear.
6. Discussion, Responsiveness: it may not be correct to state that the 2 studies which used only satisfied patients in calculating responsiveness “overestimated” responsiveness because it may well be that the other studies underestimated responsiveness. Perhaps it would be better just to state that the responsiveness reported by those 2 studies would be larger than that reported by the other studies.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.