Reviewer's report

Title: Translation and validation of the Neck Disability Index in a Greek population

Version: 1 Date: 27 February 2008

Reviewer: Roger David D Adams

Reviewer's report:

Report on |Translation and validation of the Neck Disability index in a Greek population |

This is a well-written paper describing the development and testing of a Greek language version of the NDI. The reliability, validity and responsiveness measures employed to do this are appropriate and the findings positive for the translated version.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The impression given by this manuscript is that permission from the developer of the English language version of a self-report instrument is needed before translation can be made into another language. Once an original instrument has been published in the scientific literature, however, it has been placed in the public domain, and other researchers can (and do) modify, translate or adapt questionnaires and self-report instruments to fit their own circumstances. So although contact with the developer may be collegial and valuable if matters require clarification, neither permission nor authorization to translate an instrument in the public domain is needed. This is the case unless an instrument is protected and only available for purchase, however the authors have stated that they have no competing interest, so this is not applicable here. Accordingly, reference to obtaining permission and authorization should be removed from page 4 and page 11. Reference on page 4 to sending the debriefing decisions grid to the developer for comments, however, is appropriate and relevant.

2. The title of the manuscript needs to be changed. I would suggest Translation into Greek and validation of the Neck Disability Index in a sample of Greek speakers. The reasons for this are that, as it stands, the title does not mention the important fact that the article is about translation of the NDI in to the Greek language. The titles of the papers that are references 8 to 13 may be helpful here. A favoured form is the term version (eg. Dutch version, Portugese version).


4. The validation group employed were a sample of convenience of
Greek speakers, not the population, and since the distinction between samples and populations is a statistically important one, this should be changed. So it is a Greek sample with neck complaints (p.3) not a population.

Minor essential revisions
1. Jum Nunnally has the double â##lâ## in his name (page 6 and page 13).
2. Reference needs to be made to an Appendix that will contain the Greek version of the NDI for researchers to use.

A decision on acceptability for publication can be made once the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory 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, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests