Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 22 March 2008

Reviewer: Serge Poiraudeau

Reviewer's report:

It is a well written and clear manuscript, most of the methodology is accurate. I have only a few concerns:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1-ICC and Bland and Altman graphic technique have been shown to give complementary informations concerning reliability. I would suggest to the author to provide results of the Bland and Altman analysis.

2-The factor analysis technique used should be more detailled. Did authors used principal component analysis followed by an orthogonal rotation according to the varimax method? Given results presented in table 3, the factor solution must have been forced to 1 factor. I would suggest the authors to repeat the analysis without imposing the number of factors. The sleeping and recreation items probably will not be in the same factor than other items and there is a doubt concerning the driving item. If it is the case, the part of the discussion concerning this point should be modified.

3-The driving item is problematic in this population. Almost half of the sample reported not driving. Keeping this item is therefore questionable. What was the correlation coefficient between global scores of the NDI and the NDI without the driving items in patients reporting driving and the sensitivity to change of the questionnaire with and without this item? If the correlation coefficient is higher than 0.9 and the sensitivity to change grossly the same, the item could probably be deleted.

4-Minimal detectable change has been shown to be strongly dependant on severity level at baseline in some situations. I would suggest to the authors to test this hypothesis by calculating the values of the MDC by tertile of severity on the NDI score at baseline.

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