Reviewer's report

Title: Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI) Scores in Vitiligo: translation and validation study of the Persian version

Version: 1 Date: 23 June 2004

Reviewer: Cato Mork

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Suggestion for title: DLQI scores in vitiligo: reliability and validity of the Persian version
The abstract could be more concise and shortened.

Why is only convergent validity assessed? Feasibility is not commented (frequency of not relevant items). Assistance from nurses may have biased the results, as this has not been performed consistently. Construct validity is not assessed. No factor analysis is performed to determine if the Persian version is a unidimensional measure, as hypothesised by the inceptors. The internal consistency of the scale should be determined by inter-item correlation. The range of the paired correlation between the items should be presented. Relations between items in the Persian version of DLQI and demographic and clinical parameters of vitiligo should be presented to assess criterion validity. Cronbach's alpha was <0.70 for males, focal/segmental and covered vitiligo. Does this imply that the Persian version of DLQI is not satisfactory for these subgroups of vitiligo patients? Then this instrument is valid only for a limited number of Persian patients with vitiligo.

Concerning translation: The translation-back translation method was not completely followed. How was the cultural adaptation performed? Did professor Finlay approve the final version? The abbreviation IQOLA is introduced in the text without explanation and the IQOLA method was not followed.

Table 2 could be eliminated as most of the figures are given in the other tables and the text. In table 3 abbreviations are introduced that are not explained in the legend.

Doses the category covered mean that the vitiligo patches are covered by clothes? How is generalised versus focal-segmental defined?

Vitiligo and its implication on quality of life are not described in the introduction and DLQI only briefly. Table 1 can be incorporated in the text.

What is the basis for the last sentence under results?

In the conclusion we want to know if the Persian version of DLQI is a valid and reliable for patients with vitiligo, and not dermatological diseases in general because tests have only been performed on patients with vitiligo.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the
major compulsory revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No

**Declaration of competing interests:**

None