Reviewer's report

Title: The use of research questionnaires with hearing impaired adults: Online vs. paper-and-pencil administration

Version: 1 Date: 8 December 2011

Reviewer: Pascal Senn

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions
For me it is unclear, why a statistically significant main effect of format was found on the HHIE, as outlined in the results section, but nevertheless it is concluded that the format of the questionnaires does not affect the results. The authors have to solve these issues in the abstract and the respective sections, as any reader understands what the key message would be then.

Minor essential revisions
The first sentence in the methods section of the abstract is grammatically wrong or too complex. Please make it clearer and use maybe two sentences instead.
Introduction part (page 3) the second sentence has an error as stated by Saunders stated........ The second to the last sentence is wrong on page 3, there seems some part of the sentence be missing in front of .... should be obtained...
Is table two not already more like a result than a method table?

Results
again significant order or format effects detected on ANOVA, which is not reflected in the conclusion.

Discussion
last two sentences: no order or presentation effects, see criticism above.

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

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

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
No competing interest at all