Reviewer's report

Title: Translation and validation of the Vertigo Symptom Scale into German: screening of symptoms prior to vestibular rehabilitation

Version: 1 Date: 11 March 2012

Reviewer: Susan Hillier

Reviewer's report:

Major and minor compulsory revisions
1. it would be interesting for the reader to know the 6 steps in translating measures - you mention the last only, being the most important to this process. However I don't think English-speaking readers know what a robust process it is - it would be good to enlighten them.

2. I would delete the section about the correlation between the AA and the HADs possibly showing that there is a primary anxiety rather than secondary relative to the vestibulopathy. This is an association that shows the person has anxiety - neither test shows aetiology and it is really unhelpful to sow this seed clinically until all is proven otherwise.

3. in the discussion section there is a lot of repetition of the results - can you please rework this section to be discussion only i.e. if you have to restate results do so in lay language not statistics.

4. Generally clearly written but some tricky translations and awkward sentences - what do you mean by "primary endpoint" on page 12 - this has a clinical trial meaning not appropriate for this paper; likewise what is "complete missings" on page 7 etc. Can I suggest an English speaking editor goes over the paper again for the awkward sentences that appear at times (e.g. in the first paragraph or page 9).

5. There are a lot of tables and figures - these may need to be revised unless the editors can organise e-publication of so many?

6. The first line in the introduction needs a reference.

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: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.