Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 13 March 2012

Reviewer: Helen Cohen

Reviewer's report:

This careful study is on an important topic that is relevant to the readers of this journal. The authors' understanding of different cultural nuances in different German-speaking populations is admirable and important. They were careful to follow the rules for translating scales to make the scale valid in their language, which is an important strength of the study. They were also careful to use the correct statistical analyses.

1. Minor essential revision: Surprisingly, they omitted some significant information about the 6 steps involved in the translation and cross-cultural translation of the scale. The reader of this journal may not be familiar with those steps. Therefore, to improve the Methods in the manuscript they should describe the steps that they took so that the reader will understand exactly what they did.

2. Minor essential revision In 2008 Yardley and her colleagues (Morris et al) published two papers about a new scale that they intended to supersede the VSS. Indeed, it is a better scale. The authors did not mention this scale but they should discuss the reasons they chose to translate the old scale rather than the new one. Even if they were not aware of the new scale at the time they collected data they should mention the newer scale in their Discussion. Otherwise, this manuscript, based on a relatively old scale, risks appearing to be out-of-date.

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.