Reviewer's report

Title: Assessing fear of hypoglycemia in a population-based study among parents of children with type 1 diabetes - psychometric properties of the Hypoglycemia Fear Survey - Parent version

Version: 3
Date: 11 November 2014

Reviewer: Maartje de Wit

Reviewer's report:

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

1. Shepard et al. recently reported on the validity of the HFS in the Journal of Pediatric Psychology 39:10. How does this study compares to the one presented here?

2. Do the authors know anything about who manages the diabetes: father, mother or evenly divided? This may affect the difference in reports between parents as well.

3. Please report floor and ceiling effects as part of the validity and discuss the implications in the discussion.

4. Were the data normally distributed? If not, Pearson correlations and t-tests are not appropriate.

5. "Assuming that the reports from the mother and the father of a common child are correlated is reasonable": This can and should be investigated first. Why do the authors think fear of hypoglycemia (worry and behavior) would correlate? That would argue against examining discriminant validity between parents as well.

"Thus, we considered it most appropriate to perform all analyses, except pairwise comparisons, separately for the mothers’ and the fathers’ reports."

Why separate factor analyses for fathers & mothers? What are the implications for the differences in validity between fathers and mothers? One won’t use different scales in research I think.

At least, examine the validity for the whole group as well and compare these data with the current data.

6. Frequency of hypoglycemia and monitoring blood glucoses are part of concurrent validity: one would hypothesize that more hypoglycemic episodes is associated with more fear. This doesn’t seem the case; could the authors explain this a bit more in the discussion?
Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. If reporting a mean, please provide the SD as well.

2. What is the rationale for the group cut-offs of hypoglycemia and blood glucose measurements?

3. Be consistent on reporting on the worry subscale first and then the behavior subscale.

**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, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests