Reviewer's report

Title: Reliability and validity of a questionnaire for self-assessment of complete dentures

Version: 1 Date: 4 November 2013

Reviewer: Peter Robinson

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript describes the further validation of a tool to measure patients' assessments of dentures. In a technical sense the manuscript is adequate, however the PDA is ill-defined and lacks a theoretical basis. This undermines the use and validation of the measure.

1, The authors never define what the PDA measures. Is it a proxy for a normative assessment or is it a subjective assessment? Some of the items look like a condition specific quality of life measure, whereas others are very vague. Any subjective assessment is inevitably vague, which is why they should be tied to an explicit theoretical model.

2, The authors' critique of OHIP and OHQoL in general are ill-founded. Measures of impact can show an improvement if the impact is diminished. This critique by the authors again suggests they have an atheoretical approach

3, Allied to the above, how can you measure expectations of a new denture after it has been fitted? This lack of intuitive sense perhaps explains the low ICC for this item.

4, Item 21 does not seem to be related to the importance of the denture, which challenges the face validity of the measure

5, Tables 4 and 6 in the paper could easily be incorporated into the text

In summary, I think these authors need to link up with a social scientist or health psychologist who will help them understand the need for theory in this kind of work. A measure and a manuscript with that kind of insight would be much stronger.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.