Reviewer's report

Title: Validating an alternate version of the chewing function questionnaire in partially dentate patients

Version: 3 Date: 4 February 2009

Reviewer: Colman McGrath

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written manuscript and makes a contribution to the literature but requires some revisions

Introduction: A good rationale behind the study is provided with a succinct review of the literature

Methodology: In deriving an alternative version of the chewing function questionnaire the researchers employed exploratory factor analysis. This is but one approach and has in itself many limitations. The authors should discuss alternative approach and reasoning behind only using CFA which is a rather limited approach given recent development in the field of psychometrics within oral health research (particularly OHQoL research).

It seems rather strange that validity was assessing by correlating chewing function scores with OHIP-14 which is a generic oral health-related quality of life measure. If anything this would suggest the measure being not valid as it is associated with aspect of oral health NOT related to oral function. Rationale behind such validity testing is required. I can appreciate why it may be correlated with the domain of functional limitation.

would recommend : major revisions