Reviewer's report

Title: Influence of Patient Characteristics on Perceived Risks and Willingness to Take a Proposed Anti-rheumatic Drug

Version: 1 Date: 25 March 2013

Reviewer: Michael B B Nichol

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions

This manuscript provides new information related to the perceived risks associated with DMARDs in an RA population. Within the constraints of the sampling strategy, the research should give clinicians new information regarding the possible concerns of RA patients when considering introduction of new DMARDs in the treatment approach.

Comment 1: My principal concern is that the theoretical structure of the research is not addressed until late in the manuscript. Specifically, the paragraph at the bottom of page 12 which introduces the integrated model of behavioral prediction should be moved to the end of the introduction section. This would set up all of the discussion regarding the variable selection and study design, and help the reader consider the key elements in the results. By waiting until the discussion section to insert this theoretical construct, the reader is left with the idea that the main concepts were drawn from disparate sources in the literature.

Comment 2: The other main concern is that too little attention is paid to rather small variance explained. While I realize that this is a common problem in hierarchical modeling, particularly when a relatively limited set of data are available, this should be noted in the limitations section.

Comment 3: Finally, the anonymity of responses does impact the ability of the researchers to analyze non-response. However, the investigators should be able to determine whether non-response may have been affected by the complexity of the risk assessment or some other characteristic of the risk profile set that was presented to the respondent. In other words, there are specific characteristics of the questionnaire that could be used to determine whether the non-response was systematic.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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