Reviewer's report

Title: Recognition of delirium in ICU patients A diagnostic study of the NEECHAM confusion scale in ICU patients

Version: 2 Date: 7 September 2005

Reviewer: Marquis D Foreman

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
(1) update some of the references, e.g., should use the 200 edition of DSM-IV-TR
(2) page 4, line 3 "which this grave problem..." this is unclear.
(3) page 4 concurrent validity, with what measure?
(4) determination of user-friendliness not well described or supported by other literature.
(5) on the last sentence on page 6, the authors talk about suggestions re: lay-out of the tool but do not tell use more specifically about this.
(6) re: shortening the scale from 9 to 6 items, tell us more

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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) Overall this manuscript has a great deal of problems in it's use of English and needs a great deal of editing to convey its message. To compound matters further there is a huge reliance on jargon.
(2) starting on page 3 and throughout the manuscript, the authors refer to 253 scales were rated, I believe they mean 253 ratings of patients were made.
(3) page 6, O² (superscript) shoud be O² (subscript)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.