Reviewer’s report

Title: Spanish validation of Bad Sobernheim Stress Questionnaire (BSSQ.es) for adolescents with braces

Version: 1 Date: 20 January 2010

Reviewer: Juan Bago

Reviewer’s report:

The brace is a burden for patients that can compromise the compliance with treatment regimen and its effectiveness. Therefore, it was necessary that this burden was measured with an adequate instrument Looking at the Sobernheim Bad Stress Questionnaire (BSSQ) the questions seem appropriate and reasonable. The original BSSQ version shows appropriate metric properties although the validation is incomplete. A Spanish adaptation of the questionnaire is welcome because it will allow an expansion of its use.

The authors present the results of that cross-cultural adaptation. The translation-retrotranslation process was done according to guidelines of IQOLA project. The resulting instrument has been validated in a sample of patients with idiopathic scoliosis.

Results.

In the descriptive analysis, the percentage of patients with minimum score (floor effect) and maximum score (ceiling effect) should be included in addition to the average score of the scale. This would allow to estimate the instrument’s sensitivity to change. The reliability analysis is correct.

In my opinion, the correlation analysis between BSSQ and SRS22 is of great interest. The authors only provide data on the global correlation of the two. I would like correlation coefficients among the BSSQ and different SRS22 subscales were included. As the authors note in the introduction, a brace can cause a psychological impact on adolescents. So, is there any correlation between BSSQ score and SRS22 mental health subscale? Is there any relationship among BSSQ score and the SRS22 satisfaction subscale?. In addition, I also would like the SRS22 descriptive data (mean and SD of the subscales and total score) were provided.

Factor analysis is exhaustive

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS. I think, the article deserves to be published in Scoliosis but the data that I mentioned should be included: ceiling and floor effects of BSSQ score distribution; correlations matrix of BSSQ and SRS22 subscales; descriptive data of SRS22. The discussion may require some additional comment on these new data.
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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'