Reviewer’s report

Title: Determination of quality of life in adolescents with idiopathic scoliosis subjected to conservative treatment.

Version: 3 Date: 6 August 2010

Reviewer: Ewa Misterska

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REPORT version 3rd

Title: Determination of quality of life in adolescents with idiopathic scoliosis subjected to conservative treatment.

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Reviewers’ report version 3 rd

The authors have not actually addressed our all comments. In our opinion, Italian BSSQ-Brace and BQ are still not formally validated.

Especially, they did not increase the sample size (n=10) to the amount that will enable the proper psychometric evaluation of Italian versions of BSSQ-Brace and BQ. First of all, sample size of 10 participants does not enable to assess the credible internal consistency (Cronbach’s alpha).

The authors explain that internal consistency is „satisfactory” but do not give the value of Cronbach’s alpha.

The description of the translation procedure is not satisfactory. „The questionnaires were translated by two independent investigators and compared to solve eventual differences”, but the authors did not perform:

1. Back-translaction: the Italian versions should then be translated back into its original language by two native English translators. The aim of this stage was to verify the content of both versions and to highlight any eventual mistakes in the translations.
2. Expert committee: the project team and all translators should review all the translations and back translations and create the prefinal version of the questionnaires.
3. Testing of the prefinal version of the questionnaires.
4. Test-retest (to assess reliability). Patients should complete the questionnaires
twice within-for example-two day intervals.

The authors explored only the inter-relationships of the Italian SRS-22, BSSQ-Brace and BQ.

**Level of interest:** Reject as not of sufficient priority to merit publishing in this journal

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

We have no competing interests