Reviewer's report

Title: Reliability and validity of Hospital anxiety and depression scale (HADS) in Emergency department in Saudi Arabia

Version: 4 Date: 16 March 2015

Reviewer: Christopher Coyne

Reviewer's report:

Thank you very much for your submission to BMC emergency medicine

Major Compulsory Revisions

The HADS questionnaire has been validated in previous studies, however, your own study is attempting to assess the usefulness and reliability in the Arabic setting. How can we draw conclusions from your reported anxiety/depression prevalence, when we have no confirmatory test by a psychiatrist (as a gold standard) in this new, previously unstudied, Arabic population?

Furthermore, you quote percentages of anxiety/depression from previous studies that seem to vary widely. Although it is possible that the rates of anxiety/depression vary in A&E populations based on geographic region, we have no evidence that this is the case (and not an issue with the internal validity of your study -> given that you have no gold standard).

Minor Essential Revisions

There are multiple grammatical errors throughout the manuscript.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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