Reviewer’s report

Title: How newly diagnosed HIV-positive men who have sex with men look at HIV/AIDS - validation of the Chinese version of the Revised Illness Perception Questionnaire

Version: 1 Date: 20 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Gregory Phillips

Reviewer’s report:

I appreciate the authors’ attention to my first round of comments. While there have been some improvements in the grammar and wording of the manuscript, additional work is still needed. Below are my comments:

- BACKGROUND

  - It is quite easy to get confused between "newly infected" and "newly diagnosed" individuals within this section, so I would try to make it clear how "newly infected" is defined.
  - Page 6, Line 3: add "with" between "infected" and "HIV."
  - Page 6, Lines 5-7: "Newly diagnosed...infect HIV recently" needs some editing to be more understandable.
  - Page 7, Line 9: add "a" between "with" and "chronic."
  - Page 7, Line 12: "the HIV problem" is an awkward way to say that there is an ongoing HIV epidemic in China.
  - Page 7, Line 18: change "to infect HIV" to "to be infected with HIV."
  - Page 7, Line 22: drop "their."

- METHODS

  - Page 9, Line 6: instead of "for lacking time," I would use the phrase "because they did not have time."
  - Page 9, Line 6: what is meant by "migration?"
  - Page 9, Line 12: add "incentive" after "cash."
  - Page 9, Line 13: add "them" after "compensate."
- Page 9, Line 21: change "is" to "are."

- Page 10, Line 14: change "were" to "was."

- Page 10, Line 17: "god" is lowercase in this section, but capitalized elsewhere, so this should be consistent.

- Page 11, Line 2: was the IPQ-R back-translated into English rather than Chinese, as listed?

- Page 11, Line 11: change "ranged" to "ranging."

- Page 11, Line 13: drop "in the present."

- Page 11, Line 16: change "de-emphasize" to "de-emphasizes."

- Page 11, Line 17: change "5-Likert" to "5-point Likert."

- Page 12, Lines 10-11: change "it" to "they."

- RESULTS

  - Page 13, Line 6: change "was to "were."

  - Page 13, Line 8: drop "past."

  - Page 13, Line 9: change "duration" to "time."

  - Page 14, Line 1: "eigenvalue" is misspelled.

  - Page 15, Line 1: "not construct factor" should be edited.

  - Page 15, Line 11: change "were" to "was."

  - Page 15, Line 24: change "ranged" to "ranging."

  - Page 16, Line 7 and elsewhere: the parenthetical is entirely italicized, but this was not done in previous sections.

  - Page 16, Line 14: should "r=21" be "r=0.21?"

- DISCUSSION

  - Page 16, Line 20: add "far as" between "as" and "we."

  - Page 17, Line 4: change "as other studies" to "similar to other studies."
- Page 18, Line 21: change "risk" to "risky."
- Page 18, Line 23: change "self" to "them."
- Page 18, Line 24: what is meant by "careful enough?"
- Page 19, Line 1: drop "in their mind."
- Page 19, Line 12: change "to" to "with."
- Page 19, Line 13: drop "the."
- Page 19, Line 15: add a period after "al."
- Page 19, Line 18: change "affect" to "affects."
- Page 19, Line 20: I don't think "alienate" is the correct word.
- Page 20, Line 7: what is meant by "illness representation towards HIV/AIDS?"

- CONCLUSION
- Page 21, Line 5: change "period" to "periods."

- ABBREVIATIONS
- Page 21, Line 15: change "R-IPQ" to "IPQ-R."

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

**Declaration of competing interests**
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal