Reviewer’s report

Title: Characteristic differences in the Mini-Mental State Examination used in Asian countries

Version: 0 Date: 12 Mar 2017

Reviewer: Yang Qing

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have presented an interesting and helpful review, summarizing various MMSE versions used in Asia countries, including China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and so on. The authors compared the forms and contents of items across multiple MMSE domains in appropriate detail, which is helpful for understanding the cultural impact when comprehending MMSE assessment results of studies from different Asian countries.

My major suggestions are:

1. Have the reviewed MMSE versions all been validated? If they are, could the authors summarize their validation results respectively?

2. What are the exact cut-off points of the reviewed MMSE versions? What are their specific modification or adjustment rules for demographic factors, such as education level?

Besides, my minor suggestion is: The "summary of modifications" part seemed to be a little repetitive. Could the authors provide a table to summarize briefly the characteristics and major modifications of each MMSE version, and simplify the writing?

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.

Unable to assess

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Acceptable

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 organization 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