Reviewer’s report

Title: Psychometric Properties of the Chinese Version of the Fatigue Scale-Adolescent

Version: 4 Date: 17 July 2015

Reviewer: Pei-Shan Tsai

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Major Compulsory Revisions
1. It is not clear which version of the FS-A was used. Did the authors translate the FS-A into Chinese or did they use the version validated in Taiwanese adolescents? If the authors translated the FS-A into a Chinese version, then the procedure for translation of the FS-A-Chinese should be reported.

2. The content equivalence was only determined using one single question related to “relevance” of the item. It remains unclear whether the questionnaire used to collect the content equivalence specifically indicates relevance to cancer survivors not cancer adolescents during treatments as the authors set out to investigate the psychometric performance of this scale in cancer survivors.

3. The major problem with this study is that item-reduction was based on expert opinions with one content validity question—relevance.

4. One major premise of this instrument validation study is the question as to whether the FS-A can be used to assess the fatigue of adolescent cancer survivors who have completed cancer treatment remains unknown. A second point that the authors argued for validating this instrument in adolescents in Hong Kong is that adolescents in Hong Kong have higher academic achievement pressure than those in Taiwan. The first argument may stand although it is a weak one. The second argument is buried in the discussion which not only does nothing to strengthen the significance and relevance of the study but also turns the scope of the study into a local concern. That is, the validated instrument is only applicable to adolescents in Hong Kong. It is also clearly no evidence supporting the academic achievement pressure is higher in Hong Kong than in Taiwan.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.