Reviewer’s report

Title: Health-related quality of life and pain in children and adolescents - a school survey

Version: 1 Date: 13 May 2017

Reviewer: Luisa Barros

Reviewer’s report:

The authors presented a revised manuscript of "Health-related quality of life and pain in children and adolescents - a school survey", taking in consideration the reviewers comments.

I congratulate the authors on the restructuring of the article that is now much improved.

I have some minor suggestions:

1. Although the abstract is much clearer and well structured, I think the last sentence could be revised: "Age and sex were most significant factors regarding variations in HRQOL, however impaired HRQoL was prevalent in children with pain for all 10 dimensions of the KIDSCREEN-52 questionnaire" Maybe you could say that "HRQoL was impaired for all 10 dimensions of the KIDSCREEN-52 in children with pain"? (The same sentence appear in the results and should also be reviewed.)

2. Introduction: Although the introduction is still long (maybe too long) the focus of the study and its justification is now clear, as is the innovation of this specific study.

3. Methods: The methods are now clear and describe all measures, thus allowing the reader to understand what the results stand for and how they were collected.

In the sentence: "The data collection took place from over a 6-month period from October to April." (lines 122-123) the 1st "from" should be eliminated.

4. Data Analysis: Please review the sentence, as there seems to be a repetition: "Nine of the ten dimensions had skewness and kurtosis between ±1, most of them between ±1" (line 181-182). This sentence is repeated in the Results section, where it should be eliminated. In the sentence (line188) "However, we decided to use linear regression of three reasons." , "of" should be "for three reasons".

5. Results: For the self-reported absenteeism, only the percentage is reported. In the discussion the authors mention "In our study, several children reported that they had been absent from school due to pain during the last three months" I think it would be interesting to know if reported absenteeism was associated with HRQoL or with pain measures. Both a positive and a negative result about this association would enhance the interest of these results. As it is, this result does not add relevant information.
6. Discussion: The reference to "another study of pain and HRQoL showed that children with pain problems, such as fibromyalgia, reported significantly poorer HRQoL than did children with cancer and other rheumatic diseases measured with the PedsQL [41]. (line 324-326) is somehow misleading and does not fully report the results of the Varni study. Cancer and rheumatic diseases are diseases where pain is also present. There may be many reasons for differences between these 3 conditions, not restricted to pain differences. As the current study is with a non-clinical sample, I would suggest to eliminate this sentence.

Other minor details:

"and one of the aims of our study were" (line 270) should read "and one of the aims of our study was"

"This result is significant but rather tiny" (line 285) the word tiny does not seem very rigorous?

"This is in line with a study of American children (mean age 14 years) with chronic pain showed that pain" a word is missing? (line 290) (…that showed?)

"an significant health concern" (line 333) should read "a significant…"

7. Conclusion: The 1st paragraph only repeats the ideas already made clear in the discussion. Could be greatly shortened.

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?
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