Reviewer's report

Title: Searching for the optimal number of response alternatives for the distress scale of the Four Dimensional Symptom Questionnaire

Version: 2 Date: 10 Jul 2018

Reviewer: Farzaneh Saeedzadeh Sardahaee

Reviewer's report:

This study reports novel findings that can be both useful and relevant. The manuscript is well referenced and easy to follow. Some editing is needed to make the manuscript more grammatically correct, formal and precise. To give a few examples, "(that is, measurement error)" in line 4 page 5, "various kinds of item" in line 7 page 5 or "does not pay off" in line 25-26 page 5 could be worded differently. Description of methods and results is well written and lays out the setting for later arguments.

This paper is recommended for publication after minor revisions. Please find below a list of points that could be considered by authors in their minor revision.

1- Participants in calibration sample (CS) and convergent validity sample(CV) include adolescents. It would be useful to inform readers whether the tests that were investigated in this study are generally used in adolescent population and if so, which populations, research sample or clinical, or in fact how these tests compare to testing in adults.

2- It was not clear to me whether any of participants were excluded, and if so what were the exclusion criteria.

3- Sample size in CV sample (55 persons) does not warrant drawing conclusions applicable to larger samples. This could be mentioned as a limiting factor.
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

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