Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 3 Date: 05 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Farzaneh Saeedzadeh Sardahaae

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for your additional comments and corrections. I am satisfied that the points I had raised are addressed sufficiently in the latest revised manuscript. The issue with missing data remains an issue but I am aware that there is little one can do with retrospective use of a data set apart from addressing this issue and reflection on why one thinks this might have occurred as well as limitations it puts on drawing conclusions. The article gives enough information for the reader to reflect on the findings in the light of study limitations as specified in the manuscript.

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:

Acceptable
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