Reviewer's report

Title: Rheumatoid Arthritis patients are not in a position to plan their near future. Intra-subject correlation in personal assessment of health levels over two month - Results of a survey

Version: 2  Date: 29 September 2014

Reviewer: Ana-Maria Orbai

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper which involves quite some time commitment from the part of the patient participants and the investigators. Conclusions have potentially important implications.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Please provide a subgroup analysis for anti-TNF users (only 28% of your sample) and non-users (72% of your sample)

2. I am concerned some of your respondents had no variation in their responses at all 3 time points (figure 1: 28 out of 129 there was no variation; figure 2: 16 out of 129 had no variation) while others had great variation between the 3 time points - and this is just on the 2 questions presented. Is there more granularity to these data before we average and generalize? I suggest more subgroup analyses in addition to the above: please consider analysis by sex groups and by disease duration and others you may see fit. This will be very helpful for the final interpretation and discussion.

3. Methods: Please specify which ICC type was used/ calculation method for the ordinal data.

4. Results and Discussion. Results of the questionnaire: please specify from how many sites in Austria the 127 patients come from, how many academic, how many community and how many patients per each site.

5. How was RA diagnosed?

6. Could you please provide any validity and reliability data in people with RA for the questionnaire used?

Minor Essential Revisions

7. Table 1: suggest to replace "First occurrence of RA symptoms" with Disease duration calculations.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely
related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.