Reviewer’s report

Title: Predictors of health care drop-out in an inception cohort of patients with early onset rheumatoid arthritis.

Version: 0 Date: 26 Feb 2017

Reviewer: Christina Abdel Shaheed

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting paper which looks at Predictors of health care drop-out in an inception cohort of patients with early onset rheumatoid arthritis. I have some suggestions for the authors to consider.

Abstract: In the methods section of the abstract it would be ideal to include a specific time period 2004 - ? so that it is clear when the recruitment period ended. In the results section of the abstract, what is P < 50% referring to? It also needs to be clear in the background section whether you are looking at a specific population and why this group was selected.

Introduction: provides a good rationale for conducting the study.

Methods: On page 7 where it say "to achieve objective 4” please specify here what the objective is. On page 8 where it says "age was forced..." could you consider replacing the word forced with included? I'm interested to know why you have selected the term persistence as opposed to concordance?

Results: I note that you often use "P" when referring to persistence. It may be better to use the full term. Also where you present the results of the regression it would be useful to include the significance values. The regression results could also be put into better context. Perhaps it would be worth reporting the results of the OR for the different models and describing these in some detail. In the tables, it needs to be clearer what the last column represents, particularly as you use P to refer to persistence.

Discussion: It may be worth making a stronger case as to why your participants are representative of the "real population”, perhaps include something here about the prevalence of the disease or your sample size.

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 recommend additional statistical review

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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