Author’s response to reviews

Title: Linguistic validation, Validity and Reliability of the British English versions of the Disabilities of the Arm, Shoulder and Hand (DASH) questionnaire and QuickDASH in people with rheumatoid arthritis

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor

Please see below the response to the reviewers' very helpful comments. We have made the changes recommended.

Reviewer reports:
Paul F Beattie, PhD (Reviewer 1):

1. It might be helpful to enhance the rationale/need to develop the British English version of the DASH earlier in the paper, i.e. how big of a problem was the North American version?
   • We have added a short section (lines 67-70) to explain further why a British-English DASH would be useful.

2. line 230- it would be helpful to provide the formulas for SEM and MDC 95
   • these have now been included in lines 239-242
3. line 230 [320]- 33% of respondents left at least one item unanswered- is this expected with the DASH? It seems to be mostly associated with a specific sub-group. It might be good discuss this in more detail- i.e. population-specific psychometrics.

• We have now added further analyses demonstrating that those with any missing data are likely to be older and not in a relationship (lies 334-336), then to link this with the finding that those not answering the sexual activities item (the commonest missing tem) were more likely to be older and living alone (lines 340-341).

4. line 357-358- really good point – we have expanded on the need to consider adding device use to the DASH to reflect modern-day life. (lines 370-374)

Kay Cooper (Reviewer 2):
5. Line 310/11 - ICC repeated at end of sentence

• Removed

6. Line 323 - missing "date" should be data :

• Changed

7. Figure 1 - some of the arrows need to be reformatted, and should there be a key for abbreviations so the table can stand alone from the text?

• Arrows reformatted as requested; and a Key also added.

We look forward to your response.

Kind regards

Alison Hammond