Reviewer’s report

Title: Validation of the German Revised Version of the Program in Palliative Care Education and Practice Questionnaire (PCEP-GR)

Version: 0 Date: 03 May 2017

Reviewer: Yoshiyuki Kizawa

Reviewer’s report:

This is a psychometric validation study of PCEP-GR scale to evaluate undergraduate palliative care education. This is important topic for palliative care education because there is not any suitable validated tool available for its evaluation.

Major issue;

1) Please clarify the aim of this study. The authors describe the aim of the study as feasibility study. But, it seems like psychometric validation study of short version of the PCEP-GR scale.

2) Please describe more details both of the original PCEP-GR scale and short version of the PCEP-GR scale. Is that a self-administrated questionnaire using 5-point Likert-like scale?

In previous research, authors described that 68 item PCEP-GR was developed by expert panel discussion (authors described Delphi method, but it does not seem like typical Delphi process) using translated and modified two following scales. 1) 36 items of "Program in Palliative Care Education and Practice"(PCEP) at Harvard Medical School to obtain information about self-estimation in knowledge, skills and attitude towards palliative care and 2) a 32 items instrument Collet-Lester-Fear-of-Death-Scale on attitudes towards death and dying of self and others.

3) What is the instrumental concept of PCEP-GR? If PCEP-GR score is high, how can we interpret the result?

4) How do you develop short version of the PCEP-GR score? Please describe the process of the development.

5) Authors used split-half reliability. How do you split half the instruments?

I think it is difficult to divide the items of the scale equally. Please describe the detailed method of the reliability testing. I believe that using test-retest reliability is more suitable in this situation.

6) There is no known-group validity information of the instruments.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

**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

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Needs some language corrections before being published

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