Title: The Rotterdam Elderly Pain Observation Scale (REPOS) is reliable and valid for non-communicative end-of-life patients

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Version: 1 Date: 26 Dec 2017

Author’s response to reviews:

Gregory Crawford (Reviewer 1): I am satisfied with all the amendments and believe that this is ready for publication

Response: Thank you for the thorough review and for your advice that indicates publication.

Paulette Hunter (Reviewer 2): Thank you for such a thorough response to the reviews. You have addressed each of my concerns, and the revision of the manuscript is very clearly written.

Response: Thank you for the compliments and the thorough review.

At this point, I have only the following small considerations to offer:

* I was surprised to see on p. 6 that NRS was administered alone, considering this was a REPOS validation. I did notice earlier in the manuscript that REPOS + NRS are intended to be co-administered, but I am not sure it was stated that the protocol included some NRS administrations in the absence of REPOS. This fact would benefit from earlier introduction.

Response: We apologize for this not being clear. The NRS was never administered in absence of the REPOS. Unfortunately this was in the text not clear enough and to improve clarity we
changed the sentence on page 6 into: “Communicative patients reported in addition to the REPOS score an NRS score themselves (NRS-patient).”

*  P. 7 - minor typo - digit "1" vs spelled out "two" inconsistent

Response: Thank you for your suggestion. The text on page 7 was changed now reads as follows: “…one patient had been discharged after the observations were made and in two data had been obtained earlier than three months before death.”

*  P. 9 - "to relieve pressure sores" - is it possible, in your patient group, that this should be "to relieve or prevent pressure sores"?

Response: Changed as proposed

*  Please check word usage: "mimicry" on p. 10 and "plead for" on p. 11.

Response: We apologize for the misuse of those words. Both words were changed. ‘Mimicry’ was changed into ‘grimace’ on page 10; ‘plead for’ was changed into ‘consider’ on page 11.

I am glad for this opportunity to become acquainted with your work.

Response: Thank you for your valuable suggestions for improvement.