Author’s response to reviews

Title: Challenges in a six-phase process of questionnaire adaptation: findings from the French translation of the Integrated Palliative care Outcome Scale

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Reviewer 1

I feel authors could consider adding one figure to visually depict the 6 stages described in this study. Some readers find this very helpful.

Done – see Figure 1 "The six phases for reaching trans-cultural adaptation" adapted from the POS translation guide.

Section "Phases for reaching trans-cultural adaptation and procedure", line 95, page 6.

The Acknowledgements section is lacking the names of the people to be acknowledged but I suppose it is intentional.

Done – indeed we were not sure whether we could disclose the names of our collaborators before peer review. Names have been introduced.

Section "Acknowledgements", lines 492-497, page 24.

Reviewer 2

In the abstract, I recommend describing the major findings of the results. "Possible problem" "certain items" "certain of these…” are too vague. Please clarify. I think that "background" and "conclusions" would be able to be shortened.
Done – in the Abstract the most important results were described; we have replaced the problematic terms with the items that had problems and shortened both background and conclusions.

What were the major cultural differences in the French population from English or other countries? Was it big or small? Was it negligible as a difference in language? Or, Was it important in view of the concept of the scale or question? Please clarify.

Done – while our study could not help us establish cultural differences between populations, we noted observations regarding linguistic differences. The following paragraph discusses how similar challenges were encountered in other translations of IPOS.

Section "Discussion", second paragraph, lines 351-366, pages 18-19.

The authors described "The IPOS is currently 65 being adapted in other languages as well, such as Portuguese [15], Swedish [16], and German [14]; however, no information is yet available on the psychometric validation of these translations." Is it true? Recently, the validation paper of the Japanese version was published. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30668720

Done – at the time of our writing the article, the Japanese version had not yet been made available. We have included it in the references and deleted the phrase about unpublished validation of translations.

Section "Background", line 60, page 4.

Section "References", reference no. 17, lines 542-544.

Overall, the manuscript seems to be too wordy and lengthy. Please try to be shortened. I think some general comments or discussion might be able to be omitted.

Done – we have shortened from initially 7'780 words to 7'212; if needed we can try to shorten it even more.