Reviewer’s report

Title: Validation of a core patient-reported-outcome measure set for operationalizing success in multimodal pain therapy: Useful for depicting long-term success?

Version: 0 Date: 08 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Chiara Seghieri

Reviewer's report:

I found the topic of your manuscript actual in light of the increasing importance of collecting patient-centred measures as PROMs, to support quality improvement across the healthcare system. However, the paper has some limitations which need to be addressed before being suitable for publication:

1) In general, the paper is hard to follow. I suggest to shorten it and to include a table or a paragraph where you summarize all the statistical analysis developed to validate the instruments.

2) The sample is restricted to only one centre within a university clinic. The authors should gather data from a larger sample of other different clinics. For instance, since the measurement instruments used in the study are routinely implemented in all German Pain treatment centres why the authors did not test the instruments in this population?

3) Page 5: 86% of the sample is German, it should be reported from which nationalities come the rest of the sample and how the questionnaires were administered to not German speaking patients if any.

4) Page 9: there is no information on the type of missing data. Which information is missing? The whole record of information for the patient (i.e. demographics, outcomes at baseline and follow-up, …)? Only part of the collected information?

5) Page 10: the reference regarding the assessment for the improvement based on ½ SD should be anticipated from pag 12 to pag 10.

6) A table with baseline characteristics of the two groups of patients (long-term success patients vs not long-term success patients) should be included in the manuscript.

7) Page 13: how are mean changes defined? Is the mean change between the two observational periods? Is the change statistically significant?
8) Page 15 line 1: it should be specified that the mean change is across periods for each group in order to avoid confusion with changes between groups.

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 am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable

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