Reviewer’s report

Title: French validation of the Brace Questionnaire (BrQ)

Version: 0 Date: 12 Nov 2016

Reviewer: Siu L. Chan

Reviewer’s report:

It's my honour to be given an opportunity to review this article. Please see my comment for the author below:

The Brace Questionnaire:

Line 52-74: No reference seen for the description of BrQ.

Adaptation process:

Line 87: Why only 40 subjects were included in the study? Are these samples enough to address the representativeness of the study in terms of validity and reliability?

Line 87: How did the subjects fill out the F-BrQ in the first and second trial? It has only mentioned "Forty patients were included in the study……, then again one week later". More elaboration is required in this area.

Line 90: Some more explanation on "Carbon Brace" is required in order to understand its effect on the subjects.

Inclusion criteria:

Line 91: Why "gender" not be considered in the inclusion criteria?

Line 93: What are the recommended hours of wearing Carbon Brace for the subjects?

Data gathered:

Line 96: How about the data of menarche, Risser Sign and bone maturity? They are the important data that may reflect the trend/prediction related to the eight domains of BrQ.

Line 99-100: Why the data on weight and height are gathered?
Results:

Line 120: What is the range of the demographic data as well as the parameters shown in Table 1?

Line 124: The sample size in the second trial is only 32. How would you address the reliability of F-BrQ?

Line 138: Table 4 showed 25% as ceiling effect against the domain of School Activity. How would you determine if there is any ceiling effect?

Discussion:

Line 158: More explanation is required for "The F-BrQ is therefore considered to be stable over time".

Line 163-171: Is the discussion related to this study? The deliberation should be on conservative treatment for scoliosis using Brace.

Line 173: Data on average number of months and hours per day the subjects wore the brace was not shown. It can be important data to show its trend/prediction towards the eight domains.

Line 175: Further elaboration on the "protocol" is required in order to understand the support given to patients in terms of quality of life.

Line 180-185: As Carbon Brace is used for the subjects, to be specific, it is suggested to elaborate how this brace brings about the impact of "agonizing restriction".

Line 186: How to define "cured"? Is it equal to the halt of deterioration of Cobb's angle? The communication between physicians and patients must be concise.

Line 189-191: "Adolescent are usually preoccupied by the cosmetic aspect of scoliosis.....their future". What is the source of reference for this claim? In your present study, is there any trend/prediction shown to support your claim in the related domains?

Line 191-192: What is the risk (%) of relapse in adulthood for AIS patients?

Line 193: Is the discussion relevant to the study?

Line 199: What may be the specific problems related to scoliosis using SRS for evaluation?

Level of interest

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal