Reviewer’s report

Title: Current Knowledge of Scoliosis in Physiotherapy Students Trained in the United Kingdom

Version: 0 Date: 11 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Alessandra Negrini

Reviewer’s report:

Abstract.

The research design is not stated.

Introduction.

The aim of this study is not to investigate IS, but to evaluate physiotherapy students basic knowledge of IS. Some sections of the introduction (definition, aetiology, diagnosis and treatment) are not relevant to the study. The introduction is too wide and should summarize recent research related to the topic.

It is not necessary to quote in the introduction the contents of the text books used in physiotherapy degree courses. It is sufficient to include the statement pag 6 lines 53-57.

Lines 5-17 pag 7 are a repetition of page 5 lines 29-46.

Page 7 line 17: to introduce the gap in literature, it is useful to start with "However, no study verified…” before stating the aim of the study ("Therefore, this study… - line 17).

Method.

The population completing the questionnaire may not be representative of the entire population of the penultimate and final year UK physiotherapy student, since it is not possible to know the size of the population the questionnaire was distributed, the percentage and the provenance of the students filling it. The students who filled the questionnaire may attend only some of the Universities who participated to the study. So, no definitive conclusion can be drawn from the study. It is a limitation of the study and it should be stated in the discussion.

Results:

Authors should insert a table showing the percentage of answers for each option of every item. In the study, they just listed some of the percentages of some options of every item.
The authors chose to eliminate form the analysis the answer "I don't know", and considering as "wrong" only the wrong answers. However, the answer "I don't know" shows the ignorance on the topic of the students, students who did not know the answer are at the same level of students who gave wrong answers.

Pag 12. The items 8, 9, and 10 are not open questions, as stated by the authors: some answers were proposed.

Item 8: none of the proposed answers was correct according to recent literature. No physical activity can be considered beneficial for patients with IS. This item is incorrect. It has been correct using an existing questionnaire already used in former studies, to be able to make comparisons. But in discussion it is important to state there was this flaw.

Questionnaire attached: if you add the table with the items, it is not necessary. If you attach it, it should be exactly the same that was proposed to the students, without references.

Other corrections:

pag 8 line 27: all data were accumulated

pag. 8 line 47: replace ; with :

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