Reviewer's report

Title: Exploring the reliability and acceptability of cognitive tests for Indigenous Australians: A Pilot Study

Version: 1 Date: 14 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Haruo Fujino

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting and good beginning example of research; however, there are several concerns with this manuscript. More precise description and discussion are needed.

The aim was "to examine the reliability and acceptability of four cognitive tests for monitoring change over time for Aboriginal people with WKS and alcohol misuse". However, most patients were not diagnosed with Wernicke-Korsakoff's Syndrome or alcohol use disorders according to the information presented in Table 2. This is very confusing. Also, more precise diagnostic codes (e.g., F10.2, E51) would provide meaningful information about diagnosis for patients enrolled.

Also, authors stated in added sentences that this is a pilot study to confirm reliability of the cognitive measures in monitoring cognitive outcomes following treatment for WKS. Current design could not provide direct foundation for reliability of the measurement in WKS patients.

More precise rationale for the short interval (1-5 days is adequate to confirm reliability of cognitive measures) is needed to support the conclusion--the description added (P11) was not supported with previous studies.

The authors have not supported the qualitative methods with references.

Interruptions or distractions in cognitive testing were noted in substantial proportion of the tests sessions (RUDAS had five [5/19:26%], Corsi had seven [7/19:37%] and CogState had 12 [12/18:67%] interruptions/distractions noted). These results suggest that scores of those patients who were interrupted may be biased. The data obtained from those patients may not be reliable. Please show whether those interruptions affected the results (reliability of the scores). If those data were affected the results, please exclude unreliable data.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.
Unable to assess

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

**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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