Reviewer's report

Title: Family Psychosocial Assessment in the Clinical Setting

Version: 0 Date: 05 Apr 2018

Reviewer: Sarah Gardner

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the manuscript titled 'Psychological Assessment of the Family in the Clinical Setting' under the results-free peer review scheme. Although I understand and fully support the ideas behind a results-free peer review approach, I do not feel it is at all suitable for a new scale development paper. The development of a psychometric scale is not driven by p-values or significant findings. Furthermore, the implications for a psychometric scale with poor psychometric properties is very different from an empirical study with non-significant findings. A new scale with poor psychometric properties would add little to the literature.

Nonetheless, I have the following feedback:

Strengths:

- The justification for the study is sound and paper engages with relevant literature

- Good sample size, although only drawn from two clinics (I would hope this would be reflected on in the discussion)

Areas for improvement:

- It is not clear whether the main aim of the study is to validate the properties of the FHQ or to examine the correlation between FHQ and PSC-17/parental perceptions of health

- I am interested as to why the authors decided to correlate between the FHQ and parental perceptions of health, and not direct observations of health (method section states they measured number of health visits per year, BMI, visits to ED/primary care office)?

- More information about translation and back-translation to Spanish needed. What protocol was followed?

- More sample information is needed i.e. mean age of children, relationship to child (i.e. mother child, other carer), proportion that spoke Spanish etc, exclusion criteria etc.

- More information about the FHQ scale itself is needed, how was it developed?
- More information about PSC-17 scale needed in method section i.e. Example items, response scale, psychometric properties etc.

- Missing procedure. How did the parents complete the survey?

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

Unable to assess

**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.

Unable to assess

**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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Needs some language corrections before being published
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