**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Family Psychosocial Assessment in the Clinical Setting

**Version:** 3  **Date:** 24 Sep 2018

**Reviewer:** Kar Pui Caitlin Chan

**Reviewer's report:**

This study highlights the importance of developing a screening tool for the identification of family risk factors on children's behavioral problems. However, the purpose of the study was not clearly stated. It is ambiguous if the authors tried to develop a scale for assessing/detecting family risk factors. Therefore, more elaboration and justification regarding the rationale of the study are needed. Otherwise, it is hard to examine the appropriateness of the research design and to interpret the findings.

For the background session, the relationships between different indicators and concepts should be clearly illustrated. More evidence/explanations should be given to indicate the needs of developing a scale for assessing/detecting family risk factors.

For the methods session, the contents should be clearly put under sub-sessions of "participants", "procedures of data collection", "ethical concerns", and "measures", etc. A session illustrating how the data was being analyzing is also important. For the Family Health Questionnaire (FHQ), more elaboration on the dichotomous scale is needed. Authors should also concern about the issue of scale validity.

For the result session, the findings are not very well-organized. Some figures in Table 1 are missing and the findings presented in Table 2 are not relevant to the contents of the main text. (For example, what are the columns "Mean Difference in PSC" and "t(df)" for? They were not mentioned in the main text. Was t-test conducted? What was the purpose of running a t-test?) The reliability and validity of the FHQ should be reported besides the result of factor analysis. The authors may consider seeking advice from statistic experts.

Since the purpose of the study is not clear, the interpretation of the result may be inconclusive.
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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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