Reviewer’s report

Title: Health-related Quality of Life in Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis

Version: 0 Date: 10 Apr 2019

Reviewer: James Gwinnutt

Reviewer’s report:

This was a very well written manuscript describing the quality of life of a large sample of patients with rheumatoid arthritis from Thailand. I had a few clarifications and suggestions to make which will hopefully improve the work further.

* When was the EQ5D measured - it is clear that the DAS28 is measured longitudinally. Is the outcome of your analyses (i.e. EQ5D) also scored in a similar way, or is the EQ5D score at a single time-point? What about the other predictors (E.g. HAQ) - are these also scored in the same way as the DAS28?

* There is no mention of missing data. It is necessary to report on the amount of missing data and how this was dealt with for the analysis. Perhaps this was a complete case analysis - if so then this should be stated as well as how many patients were dropped and whether these patients differed from the analysis population.

* Would be good to have a "traditional table 1" with descriptives of the whole cohort - this would aid readability and allow the reader to place this cohort of RA patients in context.

* I think we need more detail about your modelling decisions (i.e. table 3). Why is gender not included? Why is unemployment/CAD/DM only included in the EQ5D score analysis and not the EQ global health analysis? Vice versa for education and disease duration/dyslipidemia?


* There is no mention of treatment - could treatment be playing a key role in determining patients QOL? I think a least some descriptives on the number of patients taking methotrexate / biologics etc. would be useful.

Minor points
* You say that 49% of patients are unemployed - seems quite high. Does this include retired patients too?

* You note that 8.4% and 9.3% of patients were depressed/anxious. Is this based on the HADS and if so, what scores are you defining as depression/anxiety?

* There are quite a lot of long lists of means in the results text (e.g. lines 168-171) - would these be better in a table? You do have similar results in table 2. Probably only need one or the other? Perhaps just put an effect size from a regression model in the text?

* Line 177-178 - you miss that diabetes is also associated with EQ5D

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

Yes

**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?**
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Yes

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