**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** Which patient reported outcome domains are important to the rheumatologists while assessing patients with rheumatoid arthritis?

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 18 Feb 2019

**Reviewer:** Kenji Oku

**Reviewer's report:**

This manuscript discusses the importance of the patient reported outcome (PRO) domains from the aspect of the physicians. The paper arouses some interests but needs some modification before considered for the publication.

First of all, the significance or the impact of the study is difficult to recognize. We know that the PRO is important for the daily practices as well as for the clinical researches. We also agree with that there should be physician's opinions included in the PRO. Also, we understand that the nominal group consideration is successfully performed in this study, a good precedent for the time-and-human-consuming procedure. However, this study proposes only the rough domains of the PROs that each item was not surprising and not unexpected. Followings are the points to be modified

1) Please introduce some of the existing PROs for Ra by indicating their shortcomings and also describe how this study can contribute for the overcoming of those shortage points.

2) Nominal group consideration allows re-ranking for participants as to deepen the discussion. However, I could not find the description showing that the study group having those opportunities. Did I only missed the description or did authors excluded this procedure due to their lack of time?

3) It is better to validate the study by collecting external evaluation from the new group of physicians.

4) As the participant of this study is not open-recruited. Authors need to show how they recruited them more clearly. Did authors recruited physicians randomly? Or is there any risks of selection bias? How many physicians have the authors contact for the recruitment?

5) Please show the votes results into the details by aggregating the data by rank order. For instance, in each domain, show the numbers of the votes that selected as most important, second
most important and the third most important. Were there fine accordances among the participants on the rank orders?

**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?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**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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