REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-53199   Date: 08/08/2025

Title: "Validation of Psychometric Scales for Assessing Anxiety and Burden in Edentulous Patients: A Regional Language and Cultural Perspective"

Recommendation:

✓ Accept as it is ....
Accept after minor revision.................
Accept after major revision ....
Do not accept (*Reasons below*) ....

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Name: Dr. S. K. Nath   Date: 09/08/2025

Reviewer's Comment for Publication:

The study demonstrates that the translated versions of STAI, EBDS, and BTLS exhibit strong reliability and validity, making them suitable for assessing anxiety and burden in Bengali- and Hindi-speaking edentulous populations. These culturally adapted tools can enhance the psychological assessment within prosthodontic practice, facilitating more personalized care. Future research should explore longitudinal validation, broader demographic applicability, and correlation with clinical outcomes to strengthen the utility of these scales.

Reviewer's Comment / Report

Strengths

- **Cultural and Regional Adaptation:** The rigorous process, including translation, expert review, and pre-testing, ensures the scales are culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate.
- **Comprehensive Psychometric Evaluation:** The study thoroughly assesses internal consistency (via Cronbach's alpha), test-retest reliability (ICC), and construct validity (via confirmatory factor analysis), aligning with best practices.
- **Focus on Psychological Factors:** It addresses an often-overlooked aspect of prosthodontic rehabilitation—the mental health component—which is pivotal for holistic patient care.
- **Sample Size and Methodology:** Adequate sample size and standardized statistical analyses support the robustness of findings.
- **Inclusion of multiple scales:** Multiple validated tools allow for a nuanced understanding of psychological states related to edentulism.

Weaknesses

- **Limited Sample Diversity and Size Details:** Although the sample size is justified, there is limited information regarding demographic diversity (e.g., socioeconomic status, urban/rural background) which can influence generalizability.
- **Potential Bias in Self-Reporting:** Self-administered and interviewer-administered formats could introduce response bias, especially in populations with limited literacy.
- **Cross-sectional Design Limitation:** The inability to assess causality or changes over time in anxiety or burden levels.
- **Cultural Validation Scope:** While translation followed WHO guidelines, further validation in different regions or cultural subgroups within Bengal might be necessary for broader applicability.
- **Lack of Correlation with Clinical Outcomes:** The study emphasizes psychometric properties without linking scales to clinical or functional outcomes directly.