



**SDI EDITORIAL COMMENTS FORM**

EDITORIAL COMMENT'S on revised paper (if any)	Authors' response to editor's comments
<p>I believe, that authors should take into account the recommendations of the reviewer 1. As they stated, their paper is »an attempt«. They probably wanted to say, that they are conducting a pilot study. If so, this should be clearly stated in the paper: the description of the pilot study and the objectives of the pilot study. There are several literature sources, that describe in details the pilot study approach.</p> <p>I would also suggest the authors to take into account the recommendation regarding the most up-to-date literature resources, despite this may change the structure of a paper a bit. Additionally, there are some resources in the list with no publishing year.</p>	<p>We cannot call our study a "pilot study" for various reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is conducted in a context that is purely different from a pilot study;</li> <li>2. The objectives are different from a pilot study, which are to improve and evaluate eligibility criteria and recruitment methods, to improve protocol procedures such as equipment operation and measurement procedures, to evaluate clinician and patient compliance, to verify data collection procedures and data quality, etc.</li> </ol> <p>Furthermore, when analysing the content of our study, especially the methodology used, it is out of the question to consider it as a pilot study.</p> <p>Therefore, if the main objective of a small sample study is not to clarify the feasibility of the proposed study, it should not be referred to as a pilot study.</p>