Reviewer's report

Title: Additive scales in degenerative disease - calculation of effect sizes and clinical judgment

Version: 3 Date: 3 November 2011

Reviewer: Qian H Li

Reviewer's report:

In this third revision, the authors have changed the title of the manuscript to “Additive scales in degenerative disease – calculation of effect sizes and clinical judgment”. The new title appears to be relevant to the content. The authors have also clarified that the scaling factor is simply the treatment effect. In addition, the authors have clarified the connection between meta-analyses and the content of the paper. It appears that meta-analyses are the motivation of this paper. The rest of my comments to the previous version of this paper still apply.

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.