Reviewer's report

**Title:** Chronic pain among homeless persons: characteristics, treatment, and barriers to management

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 24 June 2011

**Reviewer:** Harald HB Breivik

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Concerning Hwang SW et al.: Chronic pain among homeless persons: Characteristics.
162 (52%) of 312 randomly selected persons from 17 shelters for homeless persons in Toronto had chronic pain (> 10 years- average).
8% had Chronic Pain Grad I (low disability-low intensity pain)
32% had grade II (low disability-high intensity)
24% had grade III (high disability-moderately limiting)
37% had grade IV (high disability –severely limiting)

A number of barriers to appropriate management were revealed.

61 physicians treating some of these patients were reluctant to prescribe drugs due to the sociopsychological circumstances f the patients.

Comments: This is a well done, well written-up study of a most unfortunate group of persons suffering from chronic pain that most often is not treated appropriately. Patients' as well as physicians' barriers were revealed. The authors suggest ways of improving the situation for these homeless persons with chronic pain.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'