Reviewer's report

Title: Associations between Serotonin Transporter Gene Polymorphisms and Heat Pain Perception in Adults with Chronic Pain

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Reviewer: Michael Klintschar

Reviewer's report:

The report is a well conducted study on the influence of a functional variant in the serotonin transporter gene promoter region on the heat pain threshold in chronic pain patients. There are some older studies that have performed similar experiments in normal persons, but not in chronic pain patients. The authors report somehow different results from these older studies but are able to explain this divergence by the different persons studied (healthy vs. chronic pain patients). The results seem to be of relevance for the scientific community, albeit it seems not to be a great scientific break through. (it must be noted that this reviewer is no specialist on pain perception or pain management!).

The report is very well written and concise. There is not much that can be added or commented to further amend it.

I would nevertheless suggest that the tables should be quoted in the text as "supplementary table x".

Moreover I would like to include a broader discussion on the role of the serotonergic system in pain management, e.g. by including the results of Treister R, et al. Association between polymorphisms in serotonin and dopamine-related genes and endogenous pain modulation. J Pain. 2011 (8):875-83, into the discussion.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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