Reviewer’s report

Title: Detecting the neuropathic pain component in the clinical setting: A study protocol for validation of screening instruments for the presence of a neuropathic pain component

Version: 1 Date: 24 March 2014

Reviewer: Costanza Pazzaglia

Reviewer’s report:

In my opinion, when performing a validation of an existing questionnaire for neuropathic pain, the sample of patients have to a diagnosis of neuropathic pain and the result of questionnaire has to compare with that of already validated pain questionnaires. I think that the study design is not well constructed to reach this aim.

Also the title is misleading if the authors concluded the background with this sentence: “The final aim is to assess the prevalence of NeP components in patients with LBP and NSP in the Netherlands”.

What is the real aim of the study? Validate the questionnaires in Dutch language or assess the prevalence of NeP components in patients with LBP and NSP in the Netherlands?

Moreover, LBP and NSP are considered examples of mixed pain condition, in which neuropathic and nociceptive pain coexists. For that reason, these conditions cannot considered a relevant example of neuropathic pain, as for example diabetic polyneuropathy.

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

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

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests