Reviewer’s report

Title: Children suffering from severe chronic pain: A 5-year retrospective study on 2249 pediatric pain patients

Version: 1 Date: 26 March 2012

Reviewer: Leora Kuttner

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This descriptive study deserves publication. The data set of over 2,000 children is remarkable in the field of pediatric chronic pain.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
NONE

Minor Essential Revisions:

Under Statistics 3rd Parag: “All variables are dichotomized” It is unclear how this was achieved. I’d recommend providing an example e.g. pain location.

Figure 2 is a highly informative graph. I’d recommend dropping ages 18 and above as the Ns are so small that it detracts from the generality of the trend line

In Figure 3 the height of the bars appears to be inconsistent with the scale on the right hand side of the figure e.g. bar of 23.7% seems to high

Figure 3 also merits more discussion beyond the one line on Pg 10, particularly with regard to groups showing significant differences.

Discretionary Revisions:

Under Procedure : Parag 1. ‘T value’ It would be helpful as a reminder to the reader that these are standard scores with a mean of 50 and SD of 10.

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