Reviewer's report

Title: Inter-tester reproducibility and inter-method agreement of Beighton tests and criteria for Generalised Joint Hypermobility in primary school children

Version: 2 Date: 13 August 2013

Reviewer: Claudia Celletti

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
The authors aim to investigate the inter-tester reproducibility of tests and scoring criteria for two different test batteries for performing the BT (beighton test) in a standardised protocol format and secondary to determine the inter-method agreement of the prevalence of GJH.

Firstly is not clearly described why they chose these two methods to evaluate BT; furthermore is not clear if these two methods were compared with the standard description of the Beighton test.

Method section is not clear as the figure 1.

Participants came from two different grades; which is the reason? Why you have not evaluate children from the second and third grade? I think that are not representative of the young population and it should be better to evaluate a population from 7 to 12 years (from first to fourth grade school), also in accordance also to previous studies that showed a different percentage of hypermobility between children aged 4-9 years and at the age of 10-12 years. (van der Giessen LJ et al. J Rheumatol. 2001). This in order to confirm in the younger the reproducibility of the BT already showed in adults (Kristensen et al. Rheumatology 2007)

Minor Essential Revisions

In the background specify that according to Fairbank, et al, a positive Beighton test occurs when ROM exceeds mean + 3 SD; in a biological context, however, abnormality is generally considered present when the measured parameter exceeds mean + 2 SD.

The standard protocol is not present in the web site showed in reference [9]; if is not correctable please insert more detail of the protocol.

In the discussion is described the high prevalence of GJH in the group; are there differences between male and female?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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