Reviewer's report

Title: Reliability of clinical tests to evaluate conduction loss and increased mechanosensitivity of the peripheral nervous system

Version: 1 Date: 11 September 2008

Reviewer: Michele Sterling

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
The research question is well defined.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
The methods are generally appropriate and well described. I have a few minor concerns regarding description of the subjects. The description of the inclusion criteria could be improved. What is your definition of 'non-acute'? Were all sequential participants included regardless of their 'diagnosis'? (minor essential revisions)

Additionally is it appropriate to perform t-tests of kappa values? I am not a statistician and would suggest statistical advice on this analysis. (minor essential revision)

3. Are the data sound?
The data appear sound.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
Yes

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
Yes the discussion is well written and clear. I have one small issue here. On page 13, the authors state that Wainner et al ‘used structural differentiation’. Is this an error? It seems to be at odds to the argument of this paragraph and what is outlined in the introduction regarding this paper. (minor essential revision)

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
Yes

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
Yes

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
The word ‘increased’ is not required in the title. ‘mechanosensitivity’ alone is sufficient. (discretionary revision)
9. Is the writing acceptable?
Yes

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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.