Reviewer’s report

Title: Objective and Subjective Assessment of Sleep in Chronic Low Back Pain Patients Compared with Healthy Age and Gender Matched Controls: A Pilot Study

Version: 1 Date: 11 June 2009

Reviewer: Einat Peles

Reviewer’s report:

This study is well designed, well analyzed and well written and of importance. I have just a few minor comments suggestions:

1. You don’t need the two digits after zero- for S.D. correlation or any other variables, there it is insignificant.

2. You may not need table 5 – write only in the text. Or present just the significant once. (TST, SL- did not correlate with anything. You may delete them and just mention in a footnote.

3. How was the measurement of sleep defined by the 3 nights? And how was the inter variability within the 3 nights?

4. Did you look for differences within the study group? Between genders? Individuals with and without medication? in particular benzodiazepines, pain severity? Yes/no caffeine use, Etc.

5. Did you ask about drug abuse- cannabis etc?

6. What was the compliance? how many refused to participate? And did the study group was a selective? what was the incentive of the controls group? Why did they agree to participate?

7. You may write more detailed limitations- (some of the above answers- may be put their)

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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