Reviewer's report

**Title:** Physiological responses to low-force work and psychosocial stress in women with chronic trapezius myalgia.

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 28 February 2009

**Reviewer:** César Fernández-de-las-Peñas

**Reviewer's report:**

This is a good study which deserves publication. Nevertheless, the manuscript needs some Minor Essential Revisions for improving the clarity of the data.

1. Authors should provide a description of the clinical features of the patients with trapezius myalgia, for instance, pain history (months), duration of pain, frequency (all day?), body diagram with pain area. A good description of the sample would improve the manuscript and extrapolation of the data. Did authors see if their data would depend of pain area of the patients?

2. Were the controls matched for age to the patients? This should be controlled.

3. On page 6 (methods), authors comment that they assessed pain intensity at rest in both groups. If they included controls, controls by definition can not have pain before the experiment. Authors should clarify this.

4. In addition and related to comment 3, authors should revise the methods section for checking the description of the experimental, since both groups can received the same experimental protocol, but outcomes may be different because controls have not pain before the study. In the table 1, I can see that controls have 4/100 points in pain, and this is not pain, it is discomfort. Readers would not understand how a healthy control subject have pain.

I hope that these minor comments improve the clarity of the data.

The reviewer

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest 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