Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence of fibromyalgia in low socioeconomic status population

Version: 3 Date: 15 December 2008

Reviewer: Stefan Bergman

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Major Compulsory
1. My major concern is the prevalence estimate. Despite the use of Bayesian analysis I believe that there is a possibility for selection bias in several steps that has to be accounted for:
   a) Are the 3109 subjects of middle age population registered in the health care system representative for the 207663 in the population of Embu? This is not thoroughly explained.
   b) Are the 75% with phone number representative or what kind of bias may be inflicted?
   c) How were the 768 out of 2269 selected? Random? What about people not answering on the phone call or not wanting to participate?
   d) What selection bias was introduced when only a subgroup of 304 came for clinical examination?
2. The subsample of 304 is introduced in the abstract without any explanation. Due to this is it not at all possible to value the prevalence figure.
3. The use of a dolorimeter is interesting, but I would have liked to see a comparison with the manual approach, and at least a more thorough discussion on how this method could give a different result compared to the method suggested in the ACR criteria.
4. The English language needs to be corrected. There are possibilities for misunderstanding of the text as it is now.
5. The limitations of the study with regard to prevalence estimate should be more discussed (see point 1 above)

Minor Essential
1. The Beta distribution parameters could need to be more extensively explained for the usual reader to apprehend.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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