Reviewer's report

**Title:** Characteristics and natural course of vertebral endplate signal (Modic) changes in the Danish general population

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 6 February 2009

**Reviewer:** Osmo Tervonen

**Reviewer's report:**

- **Major Compulsory Revisions**
  > The images were analyzed by one radiologist and two non-radiologists.
  > This is a major methodological shortage. Either the images should be
  > read by two radiologists or solid data for inter and interobserver
  > errors should be presented. Also it has to be described, how the
  > nonradiologists were trained.
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  > - **Minor Essential Revisions**
  > NONE
  > The author can be trusted to make these. For example, missing labels
  > on figures, the wrong use of a term, spelling mistakes.
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  >
  > - **Discretionary Revisions**
  > NONE

**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:**

- Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees,
  > funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or
  > lose financially from the publication of this paper, either now or in
> the future?
NO
>
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NO
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