Reviewer’s report

Title: Postural assessment of women with chronic pelvic pain: a case control study

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Reviewer: Pallavi Latthe

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Report

Postural assessment of women with chronic pelvic pain: a case control study

The question posed by the authors is well defined. The title and abstract accurately convey the findings. The format of writing esp. the discussion section can be improved.

The methods are appropriate and well defined. The data is sound.

The results of association in a case control study are generally reported as odds ratio.

The discussion and the conclusion do not flow from the results; should be re-written. The given data support the fact there is association between musculoskeletal changes and chronic pelvic pain. We cannot ascertain whether it is cause or effect due to the study design.

The discussion is best written with following in mind:

Summary result: as written in the first sentence

Strengths and weaknesses of the study

Controls have comparable characteristics. The assessment is clinical and hence practical in clinical settings. The interobserver variation is acceptable.

It has all the flaws of retrospective study, i.e. Unfortunately, due to the potential for many forms of bias in this study type, case control studies provide relatively weak empirical evidence even when properly executed.

Implications for clinical practice

A more detailed assessment of women with CPP might be necessary to obtain better differential diagnosis and consequently, more effective treatment.

Implications for future research

It will be useful to look at the effect of physiotherapy and/or advice on posture in women with CPP who have musculoskeletal changes to alleviate pain.

It is not clear whether the authors are acknowledging the work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished.

Minor corrections:
Abstract (pg 2)- under conclusion- 34% of women with CPP had associated musculoskeletal changes,.. CPP instead of CCP
Reference 1: BMJ instead of Bmj
Major compulsory revision
Amendment to the conclusion which at present, does not answer whether the objective has met.

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

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