Reviewer's report

Title: Depression as a 2-year outcome predictor of lumbar spinal stenosis surgery: a prospective study of preoperative, 3-month, 6-month and 12-month follow-up phases

Version: 3 Date: 3 June 2010

Reviewer: Kevin Spratt

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions.
remove all ns notation for non-significant and include the observe p value

As I was not the only reviewer who questioned the author's decision to omit non-statistically significant results from tables, I would prefer that these data be incorporated in the tables and that the N counts and rates associated with the ORs also be reported. However, if the journal has a policy that allows non-statistically significant results to be suppressed, I would withdraw this as a compulsory revision.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I am interested in the relationship between pre-treatment depression screening status and treatment efficacy. I don't view this a a competing interest and, in fact, might be more biased toward wanting this work published since it may help to make this topic of greater interest in the field.