**Author's response to reviews**

**Title:** Assessment of nerve involvement in the lumbar spine: association between magnetic resonance imaging, physical examination and pain drawing findings

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Corrections to BMC Manuscript ID 1072315157236485, 2008-11-21

page 6 bottom of first paragraph should read: Grade 2 indicated more severe nerve involvement than grade 1 and was subjectively assessed based on the darkness of the shading on the pain drawing. History questionnaires were then filled out.

page 7 middle of first paragraph should read: Findings were assessed and graded as noted in the protocol or below.

page 11 middle of last paragraph should read: For disturbed sensibility to touch (p=0.002), pain (p=0.000) and disturbed motor function (p=0.000), the overall agreement for findings of grade 2 or more was significantly greater (respectively p=0.002, p=0.000 and p=0.000) than the overall agreement for findings irrespective of grade.

page 14 second meaning of last paragraph should read: This means that for most patients, nerve involvement detected in a physical examination and/or pain drawing may go undetected if the clinician believes that the MRI gives a definitive assessment of nerve involvement.

page 19 last meaning in last paragraph should read: Using a structured physical examination and a simplified pain drawing in assessing the lumbar spine disorders, especially on patients with “MRI-invisible” symptoms, may indicate that these symptoms are less “non-specific” or psychosomatic than hitherto believed and that the patients may need treatment aimed at nerve involvement.