Reviewer's report

Title: Pressure pain sensitivity maps of the neck-shoulder and the low back regions in males and females

Version: 1 Date: 12 May 2010

Reviewer: Ville Leinonen

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Major Compulsary Revisions

The results should be presented as mean+/−standard deviation (95% confidence intervals) instead of standard error. Also range would be informative in selected variables such as absolute PPT values.

The reason for the difference between absolute and normalized PTT:s should be discussed. Now it seems that there are actually no significant differences when the values are normalized. Why is that and what this actually means?

The methodological limitations of the measurement method should be addressed in the discussion. Also it would be informative to at least discuss and also state if there are any prospective studies where PTT:s have been measured. Is there any information on the repeatability of the measures e.g. when the measurements are repeated after certain interval (e.g. two weeks)?

Discretionary Revisions

Is the thickness of subcutaneous fat measured? Alternatively is there any information whether that have any effect on PTT:s or not?

In healthy subjects the depression and other psychological parameters are supposed to be normal but the effect of mood etc could be shortly discussed. This is of course more important with patients but may have effect also in healthy subjects.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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