Reviewer's report

Title: Effect of an education programme for patients with osteoarthritis in primary care - a randomized controlled trial.

Version: 1 Date: 1 July 2010

Reviewer: Stephan Milosavljevic

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1) Some further clarification on methodology required - particularly on testing sequence. Was this the same for each patient or was it randomised? There are strengths, weaknesses and arguments for each approach (eg learning effects, fatigue effects) on outcome measures.

2) Although the authors describe research that has explored reliability issues regarding outcome measures - it would be appropriate for them to describe the reliability statistic and result for the reader to interpret. eg page 6 2nd paragraph last sentence describes how GAT has been tested for reliability and consistency but does not give the outcome of this research - also see elsewhere in the manuscript where reliability has been described in reviewed literature....

3) Given the number of variables being explored and tested was a Bonferroni (or similar) adjustment applied to the analysis?

4) At various descriptions throughout the results and in the tables - the use of decimal places for results is not consistent. At times there are no decimal places; at times 1 or 3 or 3 (particularly around p values) - these need to be checked for consistency. I would prefer the use of the word "to" to describe the spread of data between confidence intervals presented in the tables.

5) The discussion needs to be rewritten. There are only 3 sentences on main findings and then the rest of the discussion is spent on "study limitations". I would like to see a lot more written on what the results mean and a smaller summary on limitations. Discussion should have a focus on how these results might be useful to clinicians and others who work in the field of rehabilitation.

Minor Essential Revisions

There is the odd typographical error elsewhere in the manuscript and occasionally the grammar is substandard - eg finishing a sentence with the word "too" in the second sentence on page 10.

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

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests