Reviewer's report

Title: Validation of a Spanish language version of the Pain Self-Perception Scale in patients with fibromyalgia

Version: 2 Date: 14 July 2010

Reviewer: Claire Goodchild

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for asking me to review the paper entitled “validation of a Spanish language version of the pain self-perception scale in patients with fibromyalgia”. The application of mental defeat research to the area of chronic pain is an emerging field and it is exciting to see this being expanded not only to other cultures but also that it is being applied to specific pain populations, such as FM, which may have unique characteristics. It is also encouraging to read that the application of the Pain Self Perception Scale to a new population provides such consistent results as the original administration in English by Tang et al. (2007).

I would recommend that this paper be accepted for publication after a couple of compulsory revisions have been made.

1) At the end of the second paragraph of the background section the authors state “Tang et al (6) theoretically distinguished mental defeat from catastrophizing...However, there are no studies that confirm this hypothesis”. However, the study the authors go on to cite, “Tang et al (9)”, measured catastrophizing as well as mental defeat and do in fact report results that suggest that mental defeat is a different aspect of the chronic pain experience from catastrophizing. This should be acknowledged in this paragraph.

2) With that point in mind, the final paragraph of the background section which discusses the aims of the study needs to be elaborated upon. My impression from reading the paper is that the main aim of the study is to validate the Spanish version of the PSPS but I feel this isn’t properly introduced in the Background section. For instance, it seems that catastrophising is introduced first yet the authors state that distinguishing catastrophizing from mental defeat is the secondary rather than primary aim of the study.

3) In the last sentence of the conclusion the authors write “MD and pain catastrophizing are different psychological constructs in patients with FM and, supposedly, in chronic pain patients in general”; supposedly should be removed from the sentence and instead a sentence relating the findings back to those of Tang et al (2010) should be added.

Minor Essential Revisions:

4) I noticed that in the study sample the ratio of women to men is approximately 9:1; is this reflective of the ratio seen in the FM population? I’m aware that FM is more prevalent in women but I hadn’t realised it was such a great difference. A
statement to that effect in the sample characteristics section might be useful.

5) In the first line of the third paragraph of the Discussion section should “SPSP-Spanish” be corrected to PSPS-Spanish?

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

**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'