Reviewer's report

Title: Inter-examiner reproducibility of tests for lumbar motor control

Version: 3 Date: 11 February 2011

Reviewer: Luciana Macedo

Reviewer's report:

I think that the authors did a great job answering my and the other reviewers concerns and I think that the manuscript have benefited from the changes. I have only a few minor revisions to add.

Minor essential revisions

Recommendation 1 - Abstract; Results

The last phrase of the results have a value in cm of the between examiner difference, however, without knowing the actual values for each test it is hard to understand the number. I suggest that the authors either amend their abstract to contain this information or exclude this statement.

Recommendation 2-

Adding to the comment above I would like to see some information on the results of each one of the tests. According to your description of the tests some of them have a max value of 5cm, others 15cm. Therefore, it would be nice to see some information on the results of each test so we can better interpret the mean difference between examiners.

Additionally, I agree with the editor that suggest the use of MDC (MDC = SEM * 1.96 * #2). Minimal detectable change values are a reflection of clinically important change and the likelihood that true change has occurred. Therefore, I believe that this would be valuable information for individuals using these tests in clinical practice and research.

Discretionary Revisions

Recommendation 3- Methods; Definition

I understand that in this section you talking about reproducibility and that have some implication to validity. However, my personal opinion is that the addition of validity in this definition is a little confusing to readers as you are not testing validity in your study.

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