Reviewer's report

Title: High prevalence of myofascial trigger points in patients with shoulder pain.

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Reviewer: Hong-You Ge

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The study by C. Bron et al. reports a high prevalence of myofascial trigger points in patients with unilateral shoulder pain. The quality of this manuscript would be improved significantly if it is controlled by either a healthy group or a group with bilateral shoulder pain. But it stands itself as a clinical observational study due to the fact that latent myofascial trigger points in neck shoulder region are usually found in healthy subjects. The results of this study have clinical significance in providing clues to pain practitioners to localize multiple active myofascial trigger points in shoulder pain patients.

I have some minor essential comments:

Introduction:

Page 3.

1. The phrase of "autonomic phenomenon (51-53)" can be changed into "sympathetic hyperactivity (51-53)" in order to be exact.

2. The sentence of "Identification of MTrPs is achieved through manual palpation." Needs to be modified as "Identification of MTrPs is usually achieved through manual palpation in clinical practice".

Materials and methods:

None

Results:

1. “higher educated” to “highly educated”.

2. The authors stated that “Next, the observer examined the subjects for the presence of MTrPs in the shoulder muscles of the affected shoulder using the non-affected shoulder as a control [73] according to the guidelines of Simons et al [44].” But the numbers of latent MTrPs in the muscles of the unaffected shoulder are not reported. Are the numbers of latent MTrPs referring to those on both sides or only the affected side? Need clarification here. If the data of latent MTrPs in the unaffected side are available, I suggest presenting the data with side classification.

Discussion:

Page 9: “but in acute stages MTrPs may be less pronounced than in more chronic stages.” This statement may not be true, just a speculation. In acute stages, an acute activation of latent MTrPs may contribute significantly to the pain. Suggest deleting this statement.
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