Reviewer's report

Title: Relationship between behavioral coping strategies and acceptance in patients with Fibromyalgia Syndrome: Elucidating targets of interventions

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Reviewer: Joseph McVeigh

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this paper. In this study 167 people with fibromyalgia syndrome completed the Chronic Pain Coping Inventory and the Chronic Pain Acceptance Questionnaire (in addition to other outcome measures). The authors have identified a number of aims of the study, firstly to explore the relationship between cognitive based and acceptance based approaches to adjustment in chronic pain. Secondly the authors indicated that due to the limitations previous work they aimed to extend the finding of previous authors in this field, and finally the authors state that the findings of the study will allow them to identify ‘targets of intervention in pain management’. This work makes some contribution the investigation of adjustment strategies employed by people with fibromyalgia syndrome.

- Major Compulsory Revisions

The paper is hampered by the use of English language throughout, the authors should have the paper closely proofed in this respect. It is difficult to evaluate the quality of the paper due to the standard of English.

Introduction

The authors discussion of McCracken and Eccleston’s previous work, particularly the stated limitations of the work are not clear. This paragraph should be rewritten giving a clear rationale the current study. The aims of the study need to be more clearly expressed.

Methods

The authors should indicate how participants were recruited to the study.

The description of the FIQ, second sentence, the first items of the FIQ address functional activities rather than ‘muscular activities’.

Results

The study sample upper age was 67 yet the inclusion criteria states upper age 65.

Discussion

First paragraph refer to McCracken and Eccleston’s previous work rather than
‘McCracken’s earlier papers’
- Minor Essential Revisions
Define ‘severe Axis II disorder’ in methods section
There are typographical and grammatical errors.
Avoid the use of first person.
There should be consistency in the use of capitalisation of sub headings.
- Discretionary Revisions
Could the authors reference the incidence/prevalence rates of FMS alluded to in
the sample size section. The discussion section is too long and should be more
succinct, the sixth paragraph, for example (section on praying) could cut back
significantly.
I am not familiar with the analysis and therefore recommend statistical review.
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely
related research interests
Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited
Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the
statistics.
Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.

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

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the
statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.