Author's response to reviews

Title: Prevalence and anatomical location of muscle tenderness in adults with nonspecific neck/shoulder pain

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Version: 4 Date: 3 June 2011

Author's response to reviews: see over
Reviewer's report
Title: Prevalence and anatomical location of muscle tenderness in adults with nonspecific neck/shoulder pain

Version: 3 Date: 1 June 2011

Reviewer: Ruth Defrin

Reviewer's report:
The authors have properly addressed most of the issues at hand. I have a few minor essential revisions to suggest:
1. One issue that remains a bit obscure is the definition of the tenderness scale used. Please elaborate in the text the definition for "some" and for "severe". Please also explain how you have constructed the scale and why you have decided to skip an in-between definition of e.g. "moderate". The lack of sensitivity of such a scale is definitely a limitation that should be discussed.
   Our reply: True, we have now stated this in the limitations section.

2. Also, not clear is the reason for rounding values which is uncommon in scientific studies. Apart from the fact the rounding was inconsistent (76.2 was rounded to 76, but 0.57 was rounded into 1 instead of 0.6) this leads to inaccuracies as we already pointed out in our previous review (e.g. table 2). I would strongly suggest providing the readers with the actual values.
   Our reply: We have now provided the values with one digit.

3. Table 3- lacks a title.
   Our reply: A title has now been added

4. Please add your explanation to comment 5 (on Levator scapulae) to the text.
   Our reply: This has now been added

5. "stronger perception" can also be "stronger sensitivity" or "hypersensitivity"
   Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
   Our reply: This has now been changed