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 addresses 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.

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.

3. Table 3- lacks a title.

4. Please add you explanation to comment 5 (on Levator scapulae) to the text.

5. "stronger perception" can also be "stronger sensitivity" or "hypersensitivity"

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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'