Reviewer's report

Title: Reduced thoracolumbar fascia shear strain in human chronic low back pain

Version: 3 Date: 28 June 2011

Reviewer: Yasuo Kawakami

Reviewer's report:

No Major Compulsory Revisions

Minor Essential Revisions

Validity of the identification of layers among the ultrasound echogenic structures is not properly claimed. Please describe how you distinguished fascia layers from ultrasonic echo reverberiation.

Discretionary Revisions

Page 8, line 4 RO1 should be ROI

Page 8 Please provide explanation of the parameters D, P1 and P2 in panels C and D of Fig. 3.

Page 12 Clearly state the level of significance. Any correction of the significance made for repeated pairwise comparisons after ANOVA and ANCOVA?

Page 14, line 14 In the text, p<0.02 while in Table 1 p=0.02; please be consistent.

Table 2 Explain what do superscripts a and b refer to.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.