Reviewer's report

**Title:** Overlap of Cognitive Concepts in Chronic Widespread Pain: An Exploratory Study

**Version:** 3 **Date:** 2 August 2011

**Reviewer:** Michael Nicholas

**Reviewer's report:**

I can see from the latest version of this paper that some additions have been made subsequent to our previous review. These additions have improved the paper to some extent, but the new sections contain a number of grammatical errors that should be addressed in order to make the paper more comprehensible. Overall, however, my previous reservations about the paper's methodology remain unanswered. Namely, this approach seems purely statistical and not grounded in theory, nor is it linked to theory, unlike the measures that the researchers are trying to evaluate. This is a fundamental weakness.

**Specific concerns:**

1. It is mentioned on Page 10 that Cronbach alpha values ranged from 0.65 to 0.92. As <0.70 is normally considered poor, I would have expected the researchers to identify the scales with low values and to discuss the implications that arise from these findings.

2. The section on praying and hoping in the discussion could be expressed more simply: ‘The cognitive coping style ‘praying and hoping’ was also part of the first factor which otherwise mainly comprised negative emotional cognitions. However, praying and hoping do not directly reflect a negative and emotion-based view of chronic illness. Apparently, praying and hoping is strongly correlated to negative emotional cognitions and is therefore part of the first factor.’ The third sentence repeats the first when it could have provided a more insightful explanation.

3. On page 14, this sentence needs to be revised to improve its expression: ‘analyses: patients who believe to have control may expect their condition to last for a shorter period of time.’

**Level of interest:** An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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