Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Anatomically widespread sensory hypersensitivity of deep tissues in women with chronic non-traumatic neck-shoulder pain is related to psychological status

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 6 June 2011

**Reviewer:** Hong-You Ge

**Reviewer’s report:**

This manuscript provides additional evidence that local pain conditions are associated with generalized deep tissue hyperalgesia, an indicator of central sensitization. Further, an increased response to experimental muscle pain is related to psychological status when central sensitization exists. The manuscript is well organized and written. The discussion is balanced.

Minor essential revisions:

1. The title of the manuscript "Anatomically widespread sensory hypersensitivity of deep tissues in women with chronic non-traumatic neck-shoulder pain is related to psychological status" does not accurately convey the main content of the study. In the current study, widespread sensory hypersensitivity of deep tissues is defined as decreased pressure pain threshold (PPT) in local and remote deep tissues. However, PPTs are not related to psychological status. On the contrary, it is the increased response to experimental muscle pain that is related to psychological status. Thus, it is suggested to changed the title, for example, to "An increased response to experimental muscle pain is related to psychological status in women with chronic non-traumatic neck-shoulder pain and generalized hyperalgesia".

2. Check the article title of ref. No. 18.

3. Ref. No. 70: typo for "revision".

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

**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