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: 12 July 2011

Reviewer: Bart Visser

Reviewer's report:

This paper describes a well performed study on pressure pain thresholds, induced pain and psychological factors in subjects with Neck Shoulder Pain compared to control subjects.

In my opinion the paper is of excellent quality and I only have some questions/comments concerning the consistency of Title – Aim – Conclusions.

Minor Essential Revisions

There are 3 places in the paper where a conclusion is presented:

In the title, the abstract and in the conclusion paragraph on page 13.

I suggest that the conclusion paragraph comprises the most extensive version of the conclusion and that the abstract contains a shorter version (with the same message). With respect to the title as conclusion, I was surprised to read in the aim of the study that investigating possible relationships with psychological status was not a main aim, but an additional aim.

A final remark concerning the conclusion: why is one of the major results concerning the long history of pain (bullet 4 on page 11) left out of the conclusion?

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.