Reviewer's report

Title: Consequences of spinal pain: Do age and gender matter? A Danish cross-sectional population-based study of 34,902 individuals 20-71 years of age.

Version: 1 Date: 19 November 2010

Reviewer: Sanna-Mari -

Reviewer's report:

This is a clearly described study presenting data on consequences of spinal pain according to age and gender. Strengths of the study include a large sample size, reasonable selection of consequences measured, appropriate analysis and clearly written paper. However, I have some points for consideration.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. Methods, third paragraph:
Information on measurements of reduced physical activity and care seeking is inadequate. What kind of measurements were used? Also, sickness absence diagnoses were not recorded; why?

2. Results, second paragraph:
How many persons had more than one pain location in the spine? Multisite pain in the spine is quite common especially among older adults and could explain the age-related results regarding reduced physical activities reported here.

3. Discussion:
Based on the results consequences due to LBP were more frequently reported than those due to NP or MBP. However, in the discussion the authors let this main finding without any comment; why?

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' below.