Reviewer's report

Title: Reliability of the Multidimensional Pain Inventory and stability of the MPI Classification System in chronic back pain

Version: 1 Date: 3 July 2012

Reviewer: Hannu Luomajoki

Reviewer's report:

Chronic pain and low back pain especially are serious issues causing huge costs to health care systems worldwide. For this reason and like stated by the authors, sub grouping has been suggested to be a major issue in current research. This paper adds to the current stand of knowledge and is of great importance. The paper is well and clearly written and it is easy to follow. The research question is clearly stated and the methodology is adequate for the question. Results are clearly stated and conclusions drawn are congruent with the results. Congratulations for the authors for this nice paper.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
None

Minor Essential & Discretionary Revisions:
Abstract:
Results: first line: was… at least. Second sentence: please reword, little bit unclear.
Discussion: first sentence: write was moderate to good
Methods: Statistical analysis. I wonder whether SEM and SDD should be calculated as well? I know this is not typical by questionnaires but it would give an idea, how large can the error be in the score.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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'