Reviewer's report

**Title:** Upper limb position control in fibromyalgia

**Version:** 2 **Date:** 3 August 2012

**Reviewer:** Kerstin Wentz

**Reviewer's report:**

To investigate motor limb strategy in fibromyalgia stands forth as an important task also from the perspective of finding mechanisms effective in this particular syndrome of pain whether it resembles other pain syndromes or not. Therefore this task preferably needs to be contextualized in a way that it sheds light on the enigma of this particular pain syndrome.

**Major compulsory revisions**

1. The concept of chronic pain is still used in a wide sense as in the first version of the manuscript. As an example might serve the wording in the discussion section p 12 that “that limb stability is only mildly influenced by fibromyalgia or other chronic musculoskeletal pain conditions”. This kind of wording also create difficulties regarding logic structure since in the background section fibromyalgia is presented in the context of alterations in central processing of sensory feedback. In the discussion this alterations in central processing of sensory feedback should return and be discussed in relation to particularly fibromyalgia and not to “chronic pain”. Similarities and differences between fibromyalgia and other conditions of chronic pain could of course also be discussed but then with some depth and somewhat separately also thereby shedding even more light on the phenomenon of fibromyalgia.

2. In the background section, as mentioned above, the question on alterations in central processing of sensory feedback is put forward. The patterns discovered in these studies needs to be shortly summarized and then linked to the specific attempt in the present study.

3. Again on p 4 the wording of chronic pain appears regarding underlying neural processes that might induce alterations in neuromuscular control. The logic structure could be questioned here since what is obviously a common feature between fibromyalgia and all syndromes of “chronic pain” is chronic pain but pain mechanisms, brain mechanisms and motor control are not gathered/concentrated and built upon neither in the background section or in the section of discussion.

The manuscript seems still somewhat unfinished and reasoning that is presently concentrated to motor performance should include the areas as mentioned above (4).

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

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.