Reviewer’s report

Title: Pain Drawings in Somatoform-Functional Pain

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Reviewer: Ulrich T. Egle

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REVIEW of the manuscript from Egloff et al: Pain Drawings in Somatoform-Functional Pain BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders

This is a very relevant study for a mechanism based differentiation of chronic pain patients in the clinical practise!

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
   The question posed by the study is very well defined: the validity of pain drawing to screen for somatoform pain disorder.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
   The methods to answer the question posed are on a high statistical level and very carefully conducted.

3. Are the data sound?
   The pain drawing data compared in the study are very carefully selected. Influencing factors e.g. psychic comorbidity in the comparison group are controlled by an inventory to measure anxiety and depression. However there is one problem: As there is a relatively high number of fibromyalgia patients in the somatoform group (N=14, 22%), the comparison group should have more patients with a multilocular, but nociceptive pain input (e.g. patients with rheumatoid arthritis) to support one of the main results reported.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   The adherence to the relevant standards in a manuscript for reporting study results is good

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   The discussion of the results and the conclusions are very sophisticated

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
   Yes! Only the bias of multilocular pain between the experimental and the comparison group is not discussed.
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
   There are no problems.

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
   Yes, very well.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests