Reviewer's report

Title: Osteopathic intervention in chronic non-specific low back pain: a systematic review

Version: 1 Date: 13 November 2012

Reviewer: Mitchell Haas

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. The methods section is missing essential information. Identify the inclusion/exclusion criteria for the systematic review in the text. Identify any rules determined a priori for data synthesis. This should include rules for pooling or not pooling data in a meta-analysis.
2. There is no formal results section. A systematic review requires a formal results section that describes the studies included and the synthesis of the study results. It should include presentation of the risk of bias/quality of evidence results.
3. Tabulation of essential information is has not been provided for included studies. Provide a table for the risk of bias evaluation by item. Include a table of study characteristics and results: patient characteristics (inclusion/exclusion criteria), treatment, control, outcome measures, sample sizes, randomization, effects…
4. The abstract reflects the missing methods and results described above. The abstract states that the results of two disparate trials were combined but does not say how or why the results can be combined.
5. There is no comparison or contrast to the previous published systematic review demonstrating its contribution to new knowledge.

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

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 I have no competing interests.