Reviewer’s report

Title: Interrater reliability of clinical tests to evaluate scapulothoracic motion

Version: 1 Date: 22 May 2013

Reviewer: Stephanie Muth

Reviewer’s report:

Discretionary Revisions (which are recommendations for improvement but which the author can choose to ignore)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. First sentence of methods: the number 39 needs to be spelled out.
2. Second sentence of methods: remove “a” prior to “passive shoulder flexion”
3. Second sentence in PROCEDURES: physiotherapist should be singular, not plural, followed by “who”
5. Seventh sentence in PROCEDURES: address assessed visually instead of which a goniometer

RESULTS:

1. sentence: Patients presented “with”…
2. Fourth sentence: spell out number 9

DISCUSSION:

1. Third sentence: Kappa values…were fair to substantial
2. Third to last sentence in first paragraph: assessed “scapular motion”…
3. Last sentence in first paragraph: Use third person language only

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Second paragraph, third sentence of BACKGROUND:
   Scapular kinematics associated with impingement are quite variable. (See Ludewig, Reynolds, JOSPT, 2009; and McClure et al for deeper discussion of scapular kinematics and relationship to impingement. Should also consider Karduna et al… regarding the effects of scapular kinematics on subacromial space
2. Citation 16 in last sentence of third paragraph in Background – is this a peer reviewed citation? Recommend including additional citations to verify this statement
3. First sentence of fourth paragraph – The tests being assessed will not identify shoulder disorders. They will only identify altered scapular motion
4. First sentence after bullet points in EXAMINATION: operationally define scapular motion restriction

5. Last sentence of Test 1 description in EXAMINATION: Recommend peer reviewed citation to describe reliability of Test 1. Reliability and validity of this test is crucial to purpose of this paper.


7. Last sentence under Test 4. Recommend additional citations addressing the association between cervical motion and gh motion

DISCUSSION:

1. Last sentence of second to last paragraph: need to explain and provide evidence to support this statement

CONCLUSION:

1. First sentence: Based on the results of this study, it can be stated that the tests demonstrate interrater reliability. Validity needs to be established before they can be recommended as an appropriate clinical tool

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I have not competing interests