Reviewer’s report

Title: The clinical course over the first year of Whiplash Associated Disorders (WAD): pain-related disability predicts outcome in a mildly affected sample

Version: 1 Date: 23 September 2013

Reviewer: S. Samuel Bederman

Reviewer's report:

This article was a comparative study utilizing data from a RCT on a psychologically informed early management intervention after whiplash injury. The authors aimed to compare a self-selected cohort of mildly affected patients to moderate-severly affected patients and quantify their outcome over a 12-month period.

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. Since the study took place at two very different hospitals (university and regional county), I would suggest that the authors account for this in the statistical analysis.
2. Can the authors explain why the nearly 25% of patients who did not respond at the 12-month follow-up and what measures were taken to contact them?
3. Were there any factors that differed for the 5% of the MIAS sample who experienced increasing pain at the 12-month follow-up?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests