Reviewer's report

Title: Subjective health complaints in patients with lumbar radicular pain and disc herniation are associated with a sex - OPRM1 A118G polymorphism interaction: a prospective 1-year observational study

Version: 1 Date: 3 February 2014

Reviewer: Frances Williams

Reviewer's report:

The authors have submitted a well written manuscript outlining a precisely described study examining genotype in low back pain in patients with proven disc prolapse and radicular pain. Pain was measured at baseline and at 1 year follow up and subjective health complaints were also documented at both time points. It is slightly ambiguous at the outset whether the outcome of interest is pain or subjective health complaints.

Major revisions

The final linear mixed model is not clear - what is the outcome variable and why is the sample so small (n=23)?

Minor revisions

Analyses and statistics: should read "decision to test for random effects of pain was based on previous WORK SHOWING genotype differences

Results: "Patient characteristics according to sex and genotype are". These results would be enhanced by giving the values from the table, not just the p value so the reader can be confident they are interpreting table correctly

Table 2 - please improve title to reflect more accurately the outcome of interest - is it baseline SHC or follow-up SHC?

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests