Reviewer's report

Title: Living with a symptomatic rotator cuff tear 'bad days, bad nights': a qualitative study.

Version: 2 Date: 16 February 2014

Reviewer: Alberto Guevara-Alvarez

Reviewer's report:

1. No major compulsory revisions

2. Minor essential Revisions

   2.1 - The table 2 is not shown correctly on the right margin.

   2.2 - Although the diagrammatic summary shows the entire problem of "living with a rotator cuff tear", however a brief description of the diagram is always helpful for the reader.

3. Discretionary Revisions

   3.1 - I found a well structured paper. I think that all the subjective complains of rotator cuff patients have several features in common. Well described in this paper, I guess sometimes the subjectivity is missed or overlooked.

However is a non homogeneous sample with several bias, due to not all the rotator cuff tears behave in the same way, this is always bit of a problem. For example, massive rotator cuff tend to be more disabling than small tears, and supraspinatus tears behave different than subscapularis. Therefore a better comprehension of the quality could be measured upon the type of tear, as well as the tendon affected. Better results could be addressed controlling as much as possible the patients characteristics.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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 that I have no competing interests