Reviewer's report

Title: Diagnostic value of the lumbar extension-loading test in patients with lumbar spinal stenosis: a cross-sectional study

Version: 2
Date: 10 March 2014

Reviewer: Naffis Anjarwalla

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Major Compulsory Revision

1. The relation between physical findings and imaging should be mentioned for each of the tests and discussed.

2. Did the results of the test actually change the management plan of the patient?

3. If there was a change in the management plan of the patient did it seem to improve or adversely effect the outcome?

4. It is stated that one of the possible advantages of the extension test is the time saving, but the data on how long it took to bring on symptoms is not properly presented. It is suggested on average that a saving of a minute may be achieved, but as the testing for each patient was not standardised as to time of day, relation to analgesics taken etc this is not really valid. I would suggest that this advantage has not been clearly demonstrated in this study.

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

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