Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Prediction of trapezius muscle activity and shoulder, head, neck, and torso postures during computer use: results of a field study.

**Version:** 3  **Date:** 31 July 2013

**Reviewer:** Chih-Hsiu Cheng

**Reviewer’s report:**

The authors well responded for the previous comments. However, three points about the whole scene of this study still were not elucidated adequately.

First, the authors compared two models and announced that the full model is better than the task-based model. Nevertheless, the full model is based on the algorithm that “to maximize the adjusted R square value”. So it’s not surprised the results of the R square is better than that of the task-based model.

Secondly, even though, the authors could contribute to the clinical application by analyzing the chosen parameters of the questionnaire to enlighten the readers on which factors are more related to the muscle activities and posture change during daily working. It's obvious the full model (which includes more factors) should perform better than the task-based model. So the major contribution should not limit to the methodology itself. Though the authors stated that “our parameter selection procedure required multiple testing, so it is possible that the parameters were selected based on chance.” and “the aim of the study was not to identify causal relations between specific parameters and either muscle activity or postures.”, the full model would be meaningless if the model is no more than a black box.

Thirdly, it’s either not surprised that the computer users “will have differences in their muscle activity and postural exposures even when performing the same tasks.” Since this study did not reveal any specific parameters related to the changes of the muscular activities and posture, it’s too far to say “possibly putting these users at different risks for developing musculoskeletal symptoms.”

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests' below.