Reviewer's report

Title: Effect of Head and Limb Orientation on Trunk Muscle Activation During Abdominal Hollowing in Chronic Low Back Pain

Version: 1 Date: 19 June 2013

Reviewer: Mark Lidegaard

Reviewer's report:

Please see the attach file for the exact location of the comments:

1. Minor essential revision:
   I would like a definition of this term

2. Discretionary revision:
   Possibility to use the abbreviation "HM"

3. Minor essential revision:
   Following sentence needs a reference

4. Minor essential revision
   As said in the abstract it would be nice to give definition of this term

5. Discretionary Revisions :
   I would suggest to move this part of text to the end of the background, more specific the part where the objectives are mentioned

6. Minor essential revision:
   Following sentence needs a reference

7. Discretionary Revisions :
   Is this part essential for your line of argument? I would prefer to exclude this part

8. Minor essential revision:
   If the local ethics committee provided a approval number you should mention it

9. Minor essential revision:
   Why did you choose the frame? Furthermore it differs from the exclusion criteria pain free subjects (6 months)

10. See the comment above

11. Minor essential revision:
    Is there any exclusion criteria connected to the determination of PR? Furthermore I feel that it’s unclear who of the subject that are determent to have
12. Discretionary Revisions:
This entire section only repeats things that are already mentioned and does not give any supplementary information. Therefore, it can possibly be left out.

13. Discretionary Revisions:
I would propose to merge the information from this section with the information from the “Electromyography” section. In my opinion, this would give a better reading experience.

14. Minor essential revision:
Where there a maximal number of times this procedure could be repeated? Regardless the answer would should mention if it was limitless or the maximal number of repetitions.

15. Major compulsory revision:
General remarks to “Electromyography” section. Where there performed any type of control of the data quality, fx. visually? Have big were the rejection rate of the measurement?

16. Minor essential revision:
Following sentence needs a reference.

17. Minor essential revision:
Following sentence needs a reference.

18. Minor essential revision:
Following sentence needs a reference plus explanation for this procedure.

19. Minor essential revision:
Does these articles support their electrode placement on any type of guideline? If so mention it.

20. Discretionary Revisions:
Missing word: Fx. “passed”

21. Discretionary Revisions:
Not important, leave out.

22. Minor essential revision:
This sentence is not written very clearly.

23. Discretionary Revisions:
I believe that this reference should be mentioned the first time you talk about AH.

24. Discretionary Revisions:
Not important, leave out

25. Discretionary Revisions:
Wrong word: "Not"

26. Minor essential revision:
Refers to the wrong figure, according to the present labeling of the figures it should be 1.c instead.

27. Minor essential revision:
Poorly written sentence could be “…two positions were used for cervical…”. Plus refers to the wrong figure, see above.

28. Discretionary Revisions:
This part only seems to be repeating the above. Can be left out

29. Minor essential revision:
There is no figure 7

30. Discretionary Revisions:
This section could use some subheadings, as it would improve the reading experience. Furthermore this section is really long so it would improve the reading experience dramatically with a general reduction in the amount of text.

31. Discretionary Revisions:
Missing word: Fx. “group”

32. Discretionary Revisions:
Missing word: Fx. “is”

33. Discretionary Revisions:
CLBP who? Possible missing word: Fx. “patients”

34. Minor essential revision:
I feel that is late in the paper to redefine/ differentiate one of the essential terms

35. Discretionary Revisions:
Missing word: Fx. “group”

36. Discretionary Revisions:
This part should be mentioned as one of the first parts in your discussion, as it is one of the most important

37. Discretionary Revisions:
Missing word: Fx. “researchers”

38. Discretionary Revisions:
Peculiar word, I would advise to change it to something more

39. Discretionary Revisions:
Missing word: Fx. “as”

40. Discretionary Revisions:
Delete word

41. Minor essential revision:
Why patients? Do you make a general statement or are you talking about your own population? Please clarify.

42. Major Compulsory Revisions:
This part has not been mentioned in the “methods “ section, but it should have been

43. Minor essential revision:
Following sentence needs a reference

44. Minor essential revision:
Why patients? See comment on page 16

45. Discretionary Revisions:
Again, is this part essential for your line of argument? I would prefer to exclude this part.

46. Minor essential revision:
Following section needs references

47. Minor essential revision:
Following sentence needs a reference

48. Minor essential revision:
Why not use the abbreviation, “PR”

49. Minor essential revision:
I would propose to relocate this section, so it is found immediately following the part on page 14, where you first discuss your finding.

50. Major Compulsory Revisions:
This section is vital and therefor needs to be elaborated

51. Discretionary Revisions:
In my opinion it would improve the reading experience if the numerous explanations/ reasons were highlighted. It can be done in several ways, fx. 1), 2), 3) etc., i) ii) iii) ect.
This also applies for page 19

52. Minor essential revision:
I feel that is late in the paper to redefine/ differentiate one of the essential terms

53. Discretionary Revisions:
Delete word

54. Discretionary Revisions:
Poorly written sentence. Please clarify.

55. Minor essential revision:
I feel that this section would be more appropriate under the limitations section

56. Discretionary Revisions:
The idea of showing the positions with reel pictures are actually really good, however I don’t think that these are the best pictures. Somehow it feel they are unfocused and if you choose to change these I would recommend that you remove the EMG electrodes.

57. Minor essential revision:
Labeling of the figures does not correspond with the pictures, see earlier comment

58. Minor essential revision:
There are three issues that apply for both figures 2 & 3 1) It would be make reading easier if the figures had some form of heading. 2) The abbreviations on the y-axis differ from both the text and figure 1. 3) In my opinion the positions on the y-axis is presented in reverse order, I would expect the top position to be one that has been mentioned first, I feel that this is more intuitive.

59. Discretionary Revisions:
Unclear sentence, could be clarified

**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