Reviewer’s report

Title: Sensory retraining for patients with chronic low back pain: A pilot Randomised Controlled Trial.

Version: 1 Date: 26 December 2013

Reviewer: Chris Roecker

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Major Compulsory Revisions
1. Methods, 11th paragraph (Methodology checking measures): Please revise the following sentence to indicate that 100, not 10, represents completely credible. “Treatment credibility was measured using the 0-100mm VAS with 0 indicating not credible and 10 indicating completely credible...”. Please recognize that a VAS is 0-100 mm, but a Numeric Rating Scale (NRS) is 0-10. Please apply this correction throughout the manuscript.

Minor Essential Revisions
2. Abstract, Results: please correct the inappropriate capitalization in the following sentence” ANCOVA analysis revealed that Individuals in the placebo group improved…”

3. Introduction, 7th paragraph: consider revising the following sentence to explain what will be evaluated in this pilot RCT that will inform a larger, follow-up RCT. “The aim of this pilot, mixed-methods, randomised controlled trial was to investigate the effectiveness of tactile acuity training...”. If this RCT has sufficient power to determine effectiveness, then I am unsure why it is categorized as a pilot study.

4. Methods, 13th paragraph (Data Analysis): please correct the inappropriate capitalization in the following sentence “Change in Pain and function from pre to post treatment...”

Discretionary Revisions
5. Please define all acronyms throughout the abstract and manuscript upon first use (e.g. RCT, VAS, ISRCTN, NHS, NRES, CR, BMI, IQR)

6. Abstract, Methods: consider revising the following sentence “All participants/informal carers were invited to a focus group to provide feedback on the intervention.”

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.