Author's response to reviews

Title: Strength of agreement between diagnoses reached by clinical examination and available reference standards: A prospective study of 216 patients with lumbopelvic pain and/or symptoms referred into the lower extremity

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Version: 5 Date: 20 May 2005

Author's response to reviews: see over
Comments to editor May 21 2005 revision

Re: reviewer Elaine Thomas’s final comments
I have removed the ‘median’ column and added an IRQ column for the continuous variables. I think this is what she requires. IRQ values for all continuous variables are given as spaces look strange.

I have added a column and row to Table 2 so that it is clear which are physiotherapy diagnoses and which the reference standard diagnoses.

Re: editors formatting requirements.

1. Running header deleted including page numbers.
2. Author list. Author titles deleted. I have changed my own degree list since I have just passed my PhD final examination
3. References. All superscripted references to page numbers and chapters removed. A space is inserted before each square bracketed reference number
4. Table 1. I have merged cells that are empty of content. This looks OK to me. I hope its OK.
5. Table orientation. Only Table 2 must be in landscape. All others are portrait. Table 2 is large and only by reducing the font size can it fit on A4.
6. All tables, appendices and the Figure are uploaded as additional files, and referred to in the text as suggested.
7. Figure 1. is an additional file and has the title removed. I have added a section after the references “List of Figures” and put the title and figure number there.

The abstract has been modified so that changes in the main document made subsequent to changes suggested by previous reviewer comments were consistent. The discussion has also been modified slightly by removing some redundant text and reordering paragraphs.