Reviewer's report

Title: The pendulum test as a tool to evaluate the passive knee flexibility, stiffness and viscosity of patients with rheumatoid arthritis vs control subjects: a pilot study.

Version: 1 Date: 19 May 2006

Reviewer: Lee E Brown

Reviewer's report:

General
This paper is well written scientifically but the use of the English language needs to be refined. There are a few changes I would like to see and they are detailed below.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
1. The title should not include the word pilot or control subjects. Control subjects will be detailed in the methods and pilot makes it sound as if it is not yet finished.
2. In the conclusion section of the abstract you state this test is sensitive but you do not offer any reliability or validity statistics. You need to add these.
3. On page 6 you need to further define viscosity at it's first usage.
4. Also on page 6 you discuss that some subjects could not reach full extension. How did this lack of amplitude affect knee oscillations?
5. On page 11 in the last sentence of your discussion of stiffness and viscosity you talk about non-significant findings. If they were not significant then there is no need for a discussion. They are not different and therefore the same.
6. On page 16 in the first line you discuss impairments in gait of patients. You did not investigate this so you cannot discuss it here.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
1. The use of the English language needs cleaning up in this paper. There are several times when minor grammatical changes need to be made. Please have someone with English usage proficiency re-read the article.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.