Reviewer's report

Title: A Diagnostic Support Tool for Lumbar Spinal Stenosis - A self-administered, self-reported history questionnaire

Version: 4 Date: 26 September 2007

Reviewer: Christopher Maher

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

I think the authors could make their paper more valuable for clinicians by providing a more user-friendly version of the tool as part of the manuscript in both English and Japanese languages. I would add a figure which is the actual questionnaire ready for use by a clinician for their patient, clinicians could copy this and use in their clinic. Additionally it would be very useful to Japanese clinicians who are not as fluent in English language to have this tool produced in the original Japanese language. If individual Japanese clinicians have to translate it themselves from English to Japanese it is possible that small mistakes may be introduced and this could reduce the tool's accuracy.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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'