Reviewer's report

Title: The effectiveness of motorized lumbar traction in the management of lumbo sacral nerve root pain: A pragmatic randomised controlled trial

Version: 2 Date: 30 July 2007

Reviewer: Christopher McCarthy

Reviewer's report:

General

Point 3: I asked the authors to justify why they excluded two treatments which can be used with patients with nerve root pain. You have given me a response but not put this justification in the paper itself. I would expect to see a reasonable criticism of a paper addressed both by response to the reviewer and also in the manuscript.

Point 5: It is vital to discuss the issue of differential contact time for both groups. I asked you to iterate this. Your response is inadequate and gives me no idea if and where you have adjusted your manuscript.

Point 6: Not indicating the scale of the maximum scale of a questionnaire is not particularly rigorous science. I consider this type of illustration as open to abuse as very small changes can be presented as large looking change with the tweak of the scale. To simple say you would prefer not to address this point is not acceptable.

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: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.