Reviewer's report

Title: A musculoskeletal model of thyroid associated ophthalmopathy. The WOMED concept of lateral tension.

Version: 1  Date: 16 October 2006

Reviewer: Karen Grimmer

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)

This paper presents interesting findings and takes an innovative approach to considering the musculoskeletal ramifications of a systemic problem. The major problem with this paper is its lack of objective postural data with which to support its hypotheses. While the findings are plausible, and the use of the images is helpful, use of descriptive measures/analysis is not enough. There are better objective ways of measuring 2D posture such as digital images computed into x-y coordinates using software. This would provide some opportunity to test the hypotheses statistically and to provide objective evidence of deviations etc. I dont see any reason why such objective measurement should not be made, even if it is on a pilot group of subjects to demonstrate that objective measurement is as good as the descriptive data. I suggest that the authors consider the merits of recollecting their data using a more objective method, and presenting this new data in place of, or alongside, the descriptive information

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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)

Nothing until the paper is represented with better data

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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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