Reviewer's report

Title: A pilot study using Tissue Velocity Ultrasound Imaging (TVI) to assess muscle activity pattern in patients with chronic trapezius myalgia

Version: 2 Date: 9 July 2008

Reviewer: Deborah Falla

Reviewer's report:

The authors have adequately addressed the issues raised in the initial review. However there are still some minor issues which should be addressed. In particular there are sections of the manuscript which are redundant (particularly within the methods section) and thus there are a few minor corrections which remain.

Minor Essential Revisions:

Page 6, aim: introduce not introducing

Page 6, aim: Delete the last sentence “We focus on specific regional deformation and deformation rates.”

Page 7, EMG equipment: Delete the sentence “In this study, the EMG was not analysed separately but benefited from being analysed together in a forthcoming study.”

Page 7, the placement of the probe. This information is repeated again on Page 14. Suggest deleting the repetition.

Page 13: Here it indicates that there were 13 healthy women but earlier the authors indicate 14 healthy women.

Page 14: The sentence: “No information was available concerning the duration of chronic pain, but the medical records clearly reported ongoing pain of more than 6 months duration.” Should be moved to the preceding paragraph which presents the patient group.

Page 15 – by “a” metronome i.e. add a

Page 16: There is a lot of repetition through the section which describes the procedure of the movement. I would suggest condensing this section as it is currently difficult to follow. Overall, the methods section could be reduced considerably by reducing the amount of repetition throughout.

Page 18, results: “was in mean” - change to “was on average”

Page 23, line 3: was “a” healthy control
Page 25, The sentence “However, in the literature there is no consensus that patients with chronic pain are weaker than healthy controls [45, 46]” should be deleted as this refers to low back pain which is not the topic of this paper.

Page 28, 2nd paragraph: This paragraph relates to methodological issues and should be moved to the beginning of the discussion under the section of “Methodological considerations”

Figure 2 is redundant. Suggest eliminating.

**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.