Reviewer's report

**Title:** Clinimetric evaluation of ways of measuring muscle functioning in patients with non-specific neck pain: a systematic review.

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 7 May 2008

**Reviewer:** Michele Sterling

**Reviewer's report:**

This is an interesting and timely paper in view of the increasing interest in muscle function/dysfunction associated with neck pain.

I have some minor suggestions for improvement.

**Minor Essential Revisions:**

1. **Background:** I suggest start new paragraph with Panjabi et al.
2. The sentence 'Neck muscle function consists among other aspects of muscle strength, endurance and proprioception' does not make sense. Can you reword.
3. Should the muscle endurance test of the short neck flexors be called the Grimmer test. I have not heard this terminology before. I suggest it be called short neck flexor endurance test or similar.
4. The abbreviations SEM, LoA and PILE need expanding the first time they are used.
5. The discussion is somewhat disjointed. Attention to paragraphing is required. For example paragraph 5 seems to be a continuation of paragraph 4. They need linking together. There are also no page numbers making it difficult to provide direction here!
6. Paragraph 2. The aim of both tests is different. Can you explain this further? How are they different?
7. Reference 66 was an attempt to validate the carniocervical flexion test. You have mentioned this study but can you explain why it was not investigating validity.

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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'