Reviewer’s report

Title: The influence of expectation on spinal manipulation induced hypoalgesia: an experimental study in normal subjects

Version: 4 Date: 23 January 2008

Reviewer: Howard Vernon

Reviewer’s report:

Review of: Bialosky et al., re-submission

Title: The influence of expectation on spinal manipulation induced hypoalgesia: an experimental study in normal subjects.

January 23, 2008

By: Dr. Howard Vernon (Reviewer #1)

I am satisfied with the authors’ revisions with respect to the issues I raised in my initial review. I would only recommend that the phrase “manipulation-induced” be hyphenated wherever it appears in the text and title.

I am satisfied that the authors have addressed the concern raised by Reviewer #2.

I have reviewed the critique by Reviewer #3. I am satisfied with the authors’ response to the issue of the need for a “control group” in this study. I am satisfied with the revisions in the MS reflecting the position of the authors on this matter. Despite the negative review given by Reviewer #3, the authors’ response to his point improves the MS, and addresses this point for any future critics.

It is my opinion that the authors’ responses to my point about the need to clarify and justify the use of “normal” subjects in this study helps with the issue of the need for a “control group”, and so addresses Reviewer #3’s concern as well.

In my opinion, this MS is now acceptable as is for publication.

What next?: Accept without revision

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'