Reviewer's report

**Title:** "Hydrodilation, corticosteroids and adhesive capsulitis: A randomized controlled trial

**Version:** 4  **Date:** 3 March 2008

**Reviewer:** Rachelle Buchbinder

**Reviewer's report:**

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Re number of injections â## I still think the high amount of steroid that participants in both groups received may be a potential confounding factor and should be discussed as a possible limitation in the discussion. Why you chose to study 3 injections should also be included in the paper.

4. As the person allocating treatment was also the outcome assessor, it should be clearly stated that this was an open trial; neither participants nor outcome assessment was blinded. This should be clarified in the methods including in the abstract.

9. While I note that a reliability study of ROM measurements has been submitted, the reliability of the measurements should still be noted in this paper. So if I understand correctly, active movements were glenohumeral movements while passive movements were total abduction/flexion etc? Still unclear what the end-range was â## were movements performed until onset of pain or what?

13. It would be good to include in the paper your reasoning for variables included in multiple regression as outlined in your response.

Additional points:

Abstract

The conclusion needs to be qualified â## you didnâ##t find any important treatment effects resulting from 3 hydrodilatations that included steroid compared with 3 steroid injections alone.

Typo Table 3 â## SPADI, group difference column â## remove degrees sign.

**What next?:** Accept after minor essential revisions

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:


I am also first author of a relevant Cochrane review that was published this year: Buchbinder R, Green S, Youd JM, Johnston R, Cumpston M. Arthrographic distension for adhesive capsulitis (frozen shoulder). Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2008. Issue 1. Art. No.: CD007005. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD007005.