Reviewer's report

Title: Fatigue in osteoarthritis: a qualitative study

Version: 1 Date: 13 February 2008

Reviewer: Jane Richardson

Reviewer's report:

1. This is a well-written descriptive qualitative study which may add to understanding of fatigue in OA.

2. The area to be explored in this paper is clearly defined. The background is well described, although it might be interesting to see background related to fatigue in more contested conditions e.g. CFS

3. The authors state clearly the limitations of their research and suggest ways of carrying it forward in future research.

- Major Compulsory Revisions
  None

- Minor Essential Revisions

Methods: It would be helpful to see an explanation of why the focus groups were conducted separately with men and women. (I am not questioning this but think it would be helpful for readers to understanding the reasoning behind it). I would also like to see an explanation as to why focus groups were chosen over individual interviews.

- Discretionary Revisions

The amount of detail under each of the five themes is limited, e.g.theme 5, although this is understandable within word length constraints. Are there similarities between fatigue and pain in terms of whether the topic is discussed with others? Is there something about the everyday nature of fatigue which makes people unwilling to discuss it?

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests in connection with this article