Reviewer's report

**Title**: The influence of a series of five dry cupping treatments on pain and mechanical thresholds in patients with chronic non-specific neck pain - a randomised controlled pilot study

**Version**: 2  **Date**: 18 June 2011

**Reviewer**: Gillian Johnson

**Reviewer's report**:

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

1. Reference to ‘permanent neck pain” as inclusion criteria has been clarified in the Methods section.

2. Clarification of the standard and acute recall versions forms of the SF- 36 is now included

3. Unfortunately some of the new information in the revised manuscript detracts from the work. Further there are still grammatical errors in the paper.

4. P 5 Rewrite and just state the additional inclusion criteria. This information does not add to the paper

Suggest deleting this paragraph- An additional inclusion criterion was based on the recommendations for different cupping methods from appertaining textbooks [27,28]. Accordingly, dry cupping patients show so-called blank myogeloses, which are hyperirritable areas of skeletal muscle associated with small palpable nodules in taut bands of muscle fibres. Such patients may also have increased muscle tension and restricted circulation in the neck area, generally lower blood pressure, and decreased vital energy. On the other hand patients with plethora or an overabundance and voluminous gelosis of the dermis were not included in this trial but referred for wet cupping.

**Minor Essential Revisions**

The author can be trusted to make these.

P 5 delete the words from appertaining textbooks.

P6 gave their informed consent in written. Rewrite required Provided informed written consent

P13 Most (93%) The majority

P7 Neck disability index (NDI)

P7 Should be lower and middle of trapezius not descending and transverse fibres of the trapezius muscle.
The abbreviation approx should be written in full approximately
- Discretionary Revisions

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

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**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.