Reviewer's report

Title: A randomised controlled trial to assess the effectiveness of a single session of nurse administered massage for short term relief of chronic non-malignant pain

Version: 3 Date: 19 April 2008

Reviewer: Dan Cherkin

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary Revisions
I believe the following revisions would improve the manuscript.
1. Throughout the background, clarify that this study focuses on the very short-term effects of massage on chronic pain, and that this has most relevance in settings where nurses need to help patients who need immediate relief. Also, clarifying this issue in the Aim paragraph of the Methods (page 5) would be helpful.

2. I still don't see the relevance of the paragraph about the lit search on page 4 to the manuscript. I suggest that this paragraph (page 4) and the first 3 sentences of the next paragraph be deleted.

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'