Reviewer's report

Title: No effect of 6-month intake of glucosamine sulfate on Modic changes or high intensity zones in the lumbar spine: sub-group analysis of a randomized controlled trial

Version: 1 Date: 16 April 2012

Reviewer number: 3

Reviewer's report:

Dear Brachvogel,

please apologize for my late response, but due to several deadlines I was very busy before Easter holidays.

I have carefully read the article 'No effect of 6-month intake of glucosamine sulfate on Modic changes or high intensity zones in the lumbar spine: sub-group analysis of a randomized controlled trial'

and I like it:
- the article is well organized, clearly written, easy to follow and deals with a clinically important topic in the field of spine imaging and therapy.
- Introduction, Materials and methods are well described and concise.
- the discussion is well done with comparison to relevant references, the figures are of very good quality and the figure captions are alright.

the only recommendation I can give is that the authors should add one short paragraph, in which they describe that there are new biochemical MR methods such as T2 mapping, T2* mapping and Diffusion weighted imaging for the evaluation of the intervertebral disc and these MR methods may be more sensitive to changes under therapy in comparison to the morphological MR techniques used in this article.

therefore the category for this excellent article is Discretionary Revisions

and I advise: "Accept after discretionary revisions (which the authors can choose to ignore)"

it is "An article of importance in its field"

the English grammar is acceptable

and the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician

thanks for giving me the chance to review this interesting and well prepared manuscript!

kind regards
Siegfried Trattnig

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.