Reviewer’s report

Title: A double-blind, randomized controlled, prospective trial assessing the effectiveness of oral corticoids in the treatment of symptomatic lumbar stenosis

Version: 5 Date: 24 July 2014

Reviewer: Tetsuryu Mitsuyama

Reviewer’s report:

1) Page 2/Abstract/line 9. Close parenthesis for “within 100 m ”is to be closed “ ) “.
2) Page 6/lines 2-3. Please show concrete numerical values about female/male ratio, weight and height in each group.
3) Page 7/line 16-Page 8/line 2. At the key points, the authors mentioned that obesity led to severe pain and poor QOL and that L4/5 stenosis was the worst painful. It is better to show statistically significant differences on graphs in figures.
4) Table1. Please show it as a bar graph with or without significant differences among groups.
5) Table 2 and 3. To be easily and visually comprehensive for readers, sequential line graphs are much more suitable than tables.

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.