Reviewer’s report

Title: Effectiveness of the psychological and pharmacological treatment of catastrophization in patients with fibromyalgia: a randomized controlled trial.

Version: 1 Date: 9 March 2009

Reviewer: Prathap Tharyan

Reviewer’s report:

1. Will the study design adequately test the hypothesis?
   Yes

2. Are sufficient details provided to allow replication of the work or comparison with related analyses: if not, what is missing?

   It is possible that pain catastrophizing, as a construct, is similar to the negative cognitions of depressed patients, and therefore there needs to be a statistical adjustment for the presence of depressed participants with increased catastrophizing, should there be baseline imbalances between groups in pre-treatment proportions with depression, since the sample will not be stratified for depressed participants. In the discussion section, a short paragraph detailing the authors’ (or others’) experiences with differentiating between pain catastrophization and the negative cognitions of depression might help.

   In the abstract the Pain Catastrophizing Scale (PCS) is not explicitly mentioned under Measurements

3. Is the planned statistical analysis appropriate?
   As above; otherwise OK

4. Is the writing acceptable?
   On Page 4 line 1, replace associated to with ‘added to’