Reviewer’s report

Title: Paternal and maternal bonding styles in childhood are associated with the prevalence of chronic pain in a general adult population: the Hisayama Study

Version: 1  Date: 26 February 2015

Reviewer: Gordon Parker

Reviewer’s report:

Manuscript Overview:
The authors present a study from Japan that involved a large sample of Japanese adults judging their level of pain (and chronic pain) and completing a measure of their early parenting and a state depression questionnaire. In essence, and quite intriguingly, they found that those with chronic pain were more likely to have experienced parental ‘affectionless control’ and with that association being stronger in relation to fathers than to mothers. They wisely adjusted for state depression to determine if the associations continued, and found only a mild attenuation in the associations. The paper addresses an intriguing topic and, while it has been shown that adults reporting parental ‘affectionless control’ have a lower threshold for pain sensitivity, the current associations have not been previously detailed.

Major Revisions: None.

Minor Essential Revisions:
The writing and English is fine with only a few exceptions (e.g. ‘researches’ in the background section of the abstract.

Discretionary Revisions:
The paper might be able to be reduced by 20%.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.