Reviewer's report

Title: A cross sectional study between the prevalence of chronic pain and academic pressure in adolescents in China (Shanghai)

Version: 5 Date: 15 April 2015

Reviewer: Viveca Östberg

Reviewer's report:

The revision of the manuscript has addressed and taken care of the majority of comments. Additional improvements could be made with regard to the points raised below (enumerated in accordance with the original comments):

Minor essential revisions

1. The ms now includes a more thorough description of how chronic pain is defined and measured in this study. I think, however, that the description could be written more pedagogically (second paragraph on page 4), and I am still not convinced that chronic pain is the best label, but at least it is more clearly stated how it has been operationalized in this study. One inconsistency is that the definition states that chronic pain occurs at least 3 times in three months (i.e. “this bad situation happened at least 3 times in 3 months”, page 4) while that response option “occasionally/1-3 times per months” is treated as no chronic pain. Perhaps the definition should be “more than 3 times in 3 months”?

3. I note that there are still inconsistencies between tables that are not due to lack of significant associations. In Tables 4 and 4 (a and b?), relationships with other students (Q2) and “What is your rank in school?” (Q6) are not included in the descriptive table (Table 2).

4. The description of the sample has been improved (p. 5). A remaining question concerns the “152 uncompleted questionnaires”. If this is the difference between the “retrieved” and the “valid” questionnaires the number should be 262 (2849-2587). I also wonder if “Analysis of the remaining 147 uncompleted…” should be 146 (in order to sum up to 152).

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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