Reviewer’s report

Title: Clinical relevance of contextual factors as triggers of placebo and nocebo effects in musculoskeletal pain

Version: 0 Date: 07 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Manfred Schedlowski

Reviewer’s report:

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This review focuses on experimental and clinical data analyzing how contextual factors (CF) are affecting treatment outcome in musculoskeletal pain. In general, this review is very well written, however, can be improved in a number of sub-sections.

* Please include more recent papers in the section "How do the CF work?", (e.g. Geuter et al. 2017, Doering & Rief, 2012, Büchel et al. 2014, etc.).

* Please consider throughout the review, that there seemed to be not one single or general placebo effect but many, steered by different neuropsychological, neurobiological and biochemical mechanisms (Benedetti 2013).

* In the subsection „How do the contextual factors modify the patient's brain?”, please distinguish more clearly between neuropsychological and neurobiological factors etc.

* In the same way, please differentiate learning, expectation, CFs more clearly, although all of this factors etc

* Include a section „limitations" etc

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
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Needs some language corrections before being published

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