Author’s response to reviews

Title: The association between subgroups of MRI findings identified with latent class analysis and low back pain in 40-year-old Danes

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Technical Comments:

1. Please upload a clean revised manuscript that does not contain any tracked changes or highlighting as your main article file.

Answer: A new version without tracked changes or highlighting has been uploaded.

Editor's comments:

1. Thank you for stating:

"As this was a secondary analysis of de-identified existing data that had been collected for other research purposes, under Danish law these additional analyses did not require separate ethics approval. Ethics approval was granted for the original study ‘Backs on Funen’ (general population sample) from the Ethics Committee of Vejle and Funen Counties (approval # 20000042) and for the RCT (clinical sample) by the Ethics Committee for the Region of Southern Denmark (approval # S-VF-20060111)."

Please include a statement in your Declarations to confirm that your study did not require participant consent. An example of a statement is "Participant consent was not necessary as this study involved the use of a previously-published de-identified database according to [details of national legislation]."

Answer: A paragraph has been added to specify the ‘Ethics approval and consent to participate’ section. It now reads:
“As this was a secondary analysis of de-identified existing data that had been collected for other research purposes, under Danish law these additional analyses did not require separate ethics approval. Ethics approval was granted for the original study ‘Backs on Funen’ (general population sample) from the Ethics Committee of Vejle and Funen Counties (approval # 20000042) and for the RCT (clinical sample) by the Ethics Committee for the Region of Southern Denmark (approval # S-VF-20060111). Participant consent was collected prior to study involvement in the original studies and renewed participant consent was not necessary as this study involved the use of a previously-published de-identified database according to the Danish Data Protection Agency.”