Author’s response to reviews

Title: Associations between pressure pain threshold in the neck and postural control in patients with dizziness or neck pain – a cross sectional study

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Point-by-point response

Editor Comments:
Please copyedit your manuscript to improve the standard of written English. It still contains small grammatical errors and awkwardly phrased sentences. You might find it useful to ask a native English-speaking colleague to help you with this.
Response:
We apologize for the grammatical errors. The manuscript has now been edited through a native English-speaking proofreading service and we hope that the manuscripts reads more easily.

Reviewer reports / Reviewers answer
Reviewer #1 Thank you for the opportunity to review this well written manuscript by Knapstad and colleagues a third time. The study investigated neck tenderness in 239 patients with dizziness and 129 with neck pain. The aim of the study was to evaluate whether neck tenderness was independently associated with postural instability. The relationship was analysed with linear regression. Most of my comments are addressed properly, but there are some small issues that need to be addressed.
Response from authors: Thank you for these comments. To clarify, we did not aim to predict dizziness in this paper, only postural sway.
Reviewer 1: Thanks for clarifying, in the Discussion the dizziness group are very well discussed and now also added some discussion of the results in the neck pain group.
Abstract: "Results: In the dizzy group, there was small, inverse relationship…” Please include the R2 value in the abstract.
Response:
Thank you for these comments. The R2 values has now been added in the abstract.
Reviewer 1: Thanks for the authors response "The argument for using PPT has been added to the background p.4, line 89-94....." There were small differences between PPT in the neck pain compared to the dizziness group in your study.
Reviewer #1 Thank you for including proportion of individuals with dizziness in the neck pain group in Table 1? I suggest some comments in the Discussion that 45% reported dizziness but there was no association between PPT and postural sway. Is PPT not a good measurement if you would detect association between neck pain and postural sway in neck pain population?
Response:
Thank you for these comments. We have now added some comments regarding this in the Discussion on ln 290 – 298, page 14 and 15.

Reviewer #1 Thank you for your reply of normal value PPT "Walton et al (2011) examined the PPT in healthy controls at the upper fibers of trapezius of 251.8 kPa [4]." I understand that the aim of this study was not to examine normal values in healthy controls and trapezius is a different site, but according to the readers understanding of the results it is important to understand if the PPT value are much lower than normal so something to need to be further investigate in your next study.
Response:
Thank you for the comment. We absolutely agree that this is important. This is something we will investigate in a future study.