Reviewer's report

Title: Manual cervical distraction for neck pain: results of a pilot randomized controlled trial

Version: 5 Date: 11 May 2015

Reviewer: Martin Descarreaux

Reviewer's report:

The authors have provided a full point by point response document and addressed most of the concerns raised by the three reviewers.

I share reviewer's 3 concerns with regard to the lack of a proper control group but I thrust the authors will consider the addition of such group in a larger clinical trial. The authors have also clarified the study goal and research question and simplified the manuscript. I don't personally find the Quebec task force classification useful in a clinical setting, but since it is widely recognized I will not further comment on the issue.

There are still a few typos that I thrust the authors will take care of. I commend the authors for designing a truly innovative approach to manual therapy assessment and standardization.

Sincerely,

MartinD

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'