Reviewer’s report

Title: The effect of Spinal Manipulative Therapy on Heart Rate Variability and pain in patients with chronic neck pain: A Randomized Controlled trial

Version: 1 Date: 08 Jul 2019

Reviewer: David William Evans

Reviewers report:

The authors have made several changes to the manuscript, in line with the recommendations of reviewers.

Although the methodology and procedures are now clearer, I still think the manuscript can be better organised, as I still had to scroll through the document to find the appropriate information. In particular, I think the section on procedures could benefit from the use of subheadings, rather than just anonymous new paragraphs.

I still have doubts as to the methodological choices made by the authors, specifically using a pragmatic design in an explanatory study; however, as long as these are clearly described, then they should be judged on their merits.

I have annotated a copy of the manuscript with specific comments.

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Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

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Is it essential that this manuscript is seen by an expert statistician? If so, please give your reasons in your report.

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