Reviewer's report

Title: Universal goniometer and electro-goniometer intra-examiner reliability in measuring the knee range of motion during active knee extension test in patients with chronic low back pain with short hamstring muscle

Version: 1 Date: 05 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Elise Gane

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript.

Page 3, line 4, Background:

Comment 1: Is there a reference for this statement? ("over 80% of people…")

Page 5, line 4, Methods:

Comment 2: Who was the health professional that determined eligible participants to have tangible hamstring tightness?

Page 5, line 6, Methods:

Comment 3: Please provide an example of orthopaedic and neurological conditions for which patients were excluded from the study. Low back pain is an orthopaedic condition, and commonly presents with neurological symptoms such as pins and needles, and numbness.

Page 5, lines 9-10, Methods:

Comment 4: Please clarify this statement - what where the participants and assessors blinded to? Specifically, how was the assessor blinded from the angle measured by the goniometer?

Page 7, line 10, Results:

Comment 5: The authors might consider referencing the use of ICC=0.7 as the cut off for a good score. See Cicchetti D, Bronen R, Spencer S, et al. Rating scales, scales of measurement, issues

Page 7, lines 12-13, Results:

Comment 6: Please indicate that SEM is an angle measurement, with the word degrees or the symbol for degrees.

Page 8, lines 6-7, Discussion:

Comment 7: This sentence doesn't seem to be attached to a paragraph. The authors are encouraged to re-evaluate the structure of the discussion.

Page 8, line 12, Discussion:

Comment 8: The authors are encouraged to have their manuscript reviewed for English grammar. For example, "by using goniometer" should be "by using a goniometer".

Comment 9: Figure 1 doesn't really add to the study. A textual description of the study paradigm would suffice.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?  
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?  
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?  
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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