Reviewer’s report

Title: An Umbrella Review of the Literature on the Effectiveness of Psychological Interventions for Pain Reduction

Version: 0 Date: 21 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Josef Jenewein

Reviewer's report:

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Submission ID: PSYO-D-17-00051

Title: An Umbrella Review of the Literature on the Effectiveness of Psychological Interventions for Pain Reduction

This is an interesting paper investigating the effectiveness of psychological interventions for pain reduction using an umbrella review approach.

In this umbrella review 38 publications were identified, investigating 150 associations between several psychological interventions and 29 different types of pain and including 856 individual studies. Of the 141 associations based on only randomized controlled trials, none presented strong or highly suggestive evidence according to the authors' criteria.

Strengths of this paper include an important topic of both clinical and research interest; careful attention to measurement-related and statistical issues; and on the whole, the paper is clearly written including a nicely described statistical analysis section and discussion.

I have only some minor points to address:

1. Methods: literature search and and data extraction: the authors report that they selected papers in the first step by reviewing the titles of the papers. I am not sure if one can decide whether or not a paper reports a meta analysis by only reading the title.
2. There are some typos, for example, p 6, line 27: the abbreviation of standardized mean difference is SMD, not MD

3. The methods section including the criteria for classification should be reviewed by a statistician who is familiar with those topics.

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

Yes

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

Unable to assess

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 recommend additional statistical review

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable
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