Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence of chronic widespread pain in a population-based cohort of patients with spondyloarthritis - a cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 18 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Tue Jensen

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript presents data from a cross-sectional population-based study that investigated possible differences in the prevalence of chronic widespread pain among patients with ankylosing spondylitis (AS) and undifferentiated spondyloarthritis (USpA). Overall, slightly higher prevalences of widespread and regional pain were reported for patients with USpA. Women were more likely to report widespread pain as compared to men. No differences were reported for the level of pain intensity.

The manuscript is well-written and both comprehensive and concise.

The study was approved by a Research Ethical Review Board and all participants gave informed written consent.

The authors follow the STROBE checklist for reporting of cross-sectional studies without exceptions. The eligibility and selection of the study population is well-described. Also, the results from the non-responder analysis were reported and dealt with sufficiently.

The conclusions are in line with the results and the clinical interpretations are cautious and relevant.

Great job!
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.

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:

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?
If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal