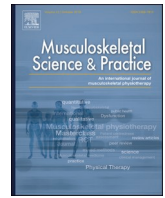




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Letter to the Editor

Letter to the editor concerning a systematic review on clinimetric properties of sacroiliac joint mobility tests by Klerx et al. (2019)



Dear Prof Moore and Prof Jull,

We would like to commend Klerx et al. (2020) for conducting a systematic review on the clinimetric properties of sacroiliac joint (SIJ) mobility tests. We appreciate that they have followed the PRISMA guidelines for reporting, the COSMIN tool to critically appraise the methodological quality, and adapted/modified the GRADE recommendations for evidence synthesis. However, we would like to notify them about several methodological concerns in the review.

First, is there a protocol for the review that has been pre-registered in a relevant registry?

Second, some reasons for excluded studies were technical assessments and asymptomatic participants. Though clinical SIJ-mobility tests in symptomatic patients are of interest for the review, technical assessments (e.g. radiostereometry) and comparison of asymptomatic (versus symptomatic) participants are important to establish validity of such tests. Here we refer asymptomatic participants as those (patients) without clinical symptoms of the disease at the time of investigation and not specifically healthy individuals. It seems the authors have not included such studies in evidence synthesis (but used some of them for discussion).

Third, we were wondering why studies pertaining to validity of SIJ-mobility tests that have been included in the previous reviews (Huijbregts, 2004; van der Wurff et al., 2000) were omitted in this review. In addition, there have been recent studies on construct validity (Soleimanifar et al., 2017) and responsiveness, after an intervention (Cf. COSMIN 2018 guidelines), of SIJ-mobility tests (Allah et al., 2019) that were not included in the review. Allah et al. study was published on May 05, 2019 that falls within the study's electronic-databases search period.

Fourth, the COSMIN group has updated their tool in 2018. They also recommend to rate the results of every study on a clinimetric property against a criteria-list for good clinimetric properties (Prinsen et al., 2018), which has been omitted in this review. However, the rationale for using an earlier (COSMIN) version and ignoring explicit rating of clinimetric properties needs justification.

There is a mismatch between the information presented and references quoted in the text (e.g. Hoehler, 2000; Moher et al., 2019 quoted for validity), Table 1 and Appendix C (two references for each row) of the review by Klerx et al. (2020). Though overall evidence on clinimetric properties of SIJ-mobility tests might remain unaltered over years, missing extant studies in the review will preclude the opportunity for the readers to know the actual number of studies published in this area.

Ethical approval

Not required.

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Declaration of competing interest

The authors of this letter have no financial interest to disclose. The views expressed are those of the authors alone and do not reflect the official policy or position of the Department.

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