Statistical tests were performed using a
The study confirms that
An increased prevalence of PRMPs among professional musicians, but none evaluated or confirmed the psychometric properties of the self-report instruments that were used.1,2

**Purpose**
The aim of the study was to evaluate the prevalence of PRMPs among professional orchestra musicians in Scotland, and to gather information on pain intensity and pain interference on function and psychosocial variables, using a self-report instrument developed and psychometrically validated for a population of professional orchestra musicians.

**Methods**
- Out of 183 professional orchestra musicians from three Scottish orchestras, 101 took part in the study (55% response rate), and completed the Musculoskeletal Pain Intensity and Interference Questionnaire for Musicians (MPIIQM).3
- Exploratory factor analysis demonstrated that the MPIIQM had a strong and stable two-factor structure (Table 1). The factorial solution explained 71.3% of the variance in the data. Internal consistency and test-retest reliability of the MPIIQM were adequate.3,4
- Statistical tests were performed using a 5% level of significance (α = 0.05).

**Results**
- The sample was evenly split between males (50.5%) and females (49.5%). The mean age of participants was 47.7±10.4 years (range 25-65 yrs).
- Of the PRMP group, 43% reported having pain in three or more anatomical areas, and no statistically significant relationship was found between gender and the number of reported pain sites (χ² = 2.571, p = 0.463).
- The most commonly reported locations of PRMPs were the right upper limb, neck, and left forearm and elbow (Table 2).

**Conclusions & Recommendations**
- This study confirms that musculoskeletal complaints are common in elite professional musicians, and that the use of an operational definition and a validated self-report instrument allows for more accurate and meaningful estimates of pain prevalence.

**References**

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