Reviewer's report

Title: A gender perspective on factors that influence outdoor recreational physical activity among the elderly

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Reviewer: Tomasz Kostka

Reviewer's report:

Sjögren K. & Stjenberg L.
“A gender perspective on factors that influence outdoor recreational physical activity among the elderly”

Major Compulsory Revisions

This is an interesting study assessing potential determinants of undertaking recreational physical activity among the elderly men and women. The strengths of the study are inclusion of relatively large population and advanced age of participants. The main weakness is simple assessment of PA without any validated questionnaire. This shortcoming has been acknowledged by the authors and is counterbalanced by some novel data presented in the study. The presentation of results should be also improved.

Comments

Abstract
1) Give some principal data, e.g. number of participants.

Methods
2) The recruitment procedure needs better clarification, especially the age of participants (page 5, lines 9-12, presentation in Table III).

3) How the combined dependent variable was set:
   - the relative input of light and intense activities was the same?
   - what about activities 4 times per month?

Results
4) Page 7, line 4: “756 (83%)” needs explanation

5) Page 7, lines 9-11: this sentence needs re-editing. It would be useful to add numbers and percentages of participants performing outdoor activities within each age category to Table II.

6) Logistic regression should be presented as single (binary) logistic regression and multiple logistic regression. Repetition of results on pages 9 and 10 is redundant. Table V (page 10 line 4) is not available.
7) Significant relationships obtained with chi-square should be also visible with single logistic regression, e.g. for cohabiting.

8) It seems better to change coding “yes” and “no” answers of “being able to bathe or shower independently” and “having assess to areas for country walks” in Table III. This would give values >1 and improve the interpretation of data from Table IV.

9) Interpretation of interactions (pages 9,10 and Table IV) is difficult to follow.

Conclusions
10) Page 14, line 18: more rapid decline of women’s participation should be documented in results

Minor Essential Revisions
Background
11) Page 3, last line: “However, Berstein et al. [19] suggest…
12) Definition of PA that is widely accepted has been given by the authors.

Discussion
13) Page 12, line 9: “…in line with Lee [31]…”
14) Page 13: lines 7-10 should be presented in results

Discretionary Revisions
Results, first line:
15) “Our results suggest that being independent, physically healthy…”

Methods
16) Page 4, last line: …reflects…

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests