Reviewer's report

Title: Sex differences in circumstances and consequence of outdoor and indoor falls in older adults in MOBILIZE Boston cohort study

Version: 3  Date: 3 October 2013

Reviewer: Yoshiro Okubo

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Statistics

1-2. Page 8
"Rate ratios were adjusted for a combined risk score composed of the differences in physical characteristics between genders". Please describe how you calculated the combined risk score. Specify the variables combined, name of the analysis used.

1-3. page 11
"Although differences in characteristics existed gender differences in fall rates were not explained by any of these factors when adjustments were added to the analysis (not shown)". The adjusted results should be presented on this paper.

1-4. Table 2
The adjusted results should be presented on the table. The adjusted variables should be presented on the foot note, as well. If there is not enough space, 95%CI for rate of all falls and injurious falls can be deleted.

1-5. Table 3
"Rate ratios adjusted for a combined risk score composed of the characteristics in Table 1." Please state the variables.
1-6. Abstract
Adjusted results should be written on the abstract.

1-7. Results
Adjusted results should be written.

Minor Essential Revisions

2. Table 1
"Recreational (hours/week) 1.3+2.4 0.9+1.7"
unnecessary under bar should be deleted from the SD.

3. Page 8
"Rates of falls are reported as falls per 100 person years."
This should be "Rates of falls among men and women are reported as falls per 1000 person years."

4. Page 8
"Women reported significantly more time spent doing light household chores (229 (84.2) vs. 431 (98.0), p<0.001), and garden chores (113 (41.2) vs. 148 (32.0), p=0.01) in the past week" Correct "past". Add "%" and n can be deleted.
The description is opposite, the men had significantly higher prevalence of doing Lawn/garden chores in the past week, according to table 1.
Since you do not present data about the "time" spent but only prevalence, the description of "time spent" in results and discussion should be accurately corrected.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests