Reviewer's report

Title: The Physical Capability of Community-Based Men and Women from a British Cohort: The European Prospective Investigation into Cancer (EPIC)-Norfolk Study

Version: 1 Date: 5 July 2013

Reviewer: Kenji Tsunoda

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General comments:
This study includes important information on descriptive data for physical function in older adults. However, because there are some concerns, some revisions are requested as stated below.

Specific recommendations:
Background
Comment 1:
“However, the accuracy of anthropometric measures for muscle mass is uncertain and neither DXA nor BIA are commonly available.” (center of p.4)
Is BIA not commonly available really? It seems that BIA is commonly available but validation is not necessarily high. If the authors need to explain limitation of BIA, it may be better to mention the low validation than the availability.

Methods and Results (Figure 2)
Comment 2:
Why the authors divided the performance tests by median values? The purpose of this study is to discuss the EWGSOP recommendation for sarcopenia using data from the largest cohort study, and readers would more concern each percentage of meeting the sarcopenia criteria than the information using cutoff point by the median values. Additionally, I suggest to divide the information on percentages into age and gender groups, since there may be gender differences in the each percentage.

Comment 3:
Figure 3a and 3b help easy understanding the changes in grip strength by aging. If capacity of this paper allows, I suggest to add graphs for the gait speed and timed chair stand into the paper or additional files.

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.