Reviewer’s report

Title: Physical activity in subjects with Multiple Sclerosis with focus on gender differences - A survey

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Reviewer: Peter Feys

Reviewer’s report:

I have read the paper “Physical activity in subjects with Multiple Sclerosis with focus on gender differences – A survey”. I can state honestly that I was initially not feeling that the topic of this manuscript was of high priority, but the authors have well described the clinical and scientific context in the introduction section.

The results need however careful interpretation given that the sample of men (n = 84) is characterised by more severe manifestation of MS symptoms (or impact of MS) and disease duration associated with larger disability. The authors do acknowledge that this is a potential limitation but seem to minimize this factor by referring to one other single paper.

My main remark, and needing a major revision in the results section, is to consider if the factors of disease duration, type of MS and disability level can be taken into account in the statistical analyses. It is crucial in order to be able to present the results as robust findings. If multi-factorial analyses are not being considered as applicable, one may at least make some subgroups based on severity level and make comparisons between male and female subgroups on each level.

Minor point: the FES has been used internationally. As such, the phrasing that the FES(S) has not been used in MS yet, is misleading especially as a translation procedure may have been performed within the study preparation.

The authors have applied several potentially interesting scales also covering domains of social functioning. In the discussion section, differences between males and females in this studies, and different findings between studies, are tried to be explained by the content of the questionnaires which is very much appreciated. The paper would however benefit from also making this comparison anecdotally more explicitly (like the type of items/constructs in another scale, with also the different result in another study; for example on physical activity and the different constructs of self-efficacy).

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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