Reviewer’s report

Title: Impact of oxygen uptake and physical activity on pregnancy related back pain: a cohort study

Version: 3 Date: 10 March 2012

Reviewer: Shohreh Jalaie

Reviewer’s report:

Page 2, line 15, "...and back pain during..." should be changed to "...and incidence of back pain during..."

Page 2, line 16, "independent' after A significant should be deleted.

Page 2, line 17-18, Sentence "...with a direct association post partum" should be Changed to "...and a direct association in post partum"

Page 8, line 5, "...association between any back pain location ...' should be changed to "...association between the hazard (incidence) of back pain in any back pain location ..."

Page 8, line 21-22, Sentence "the women were grouped by ..." should be referenced for this grouping. (Which group is suitable for a woman that has a vo2 estimated equal 2.1 or 2.7? in your test and your figure)

Page 8, line 22, "adjusted by": is your means “without consideration physical activity...”?

Page 9, line 4, and in figure 2, "...the back pain intensity...” should be changed to “...the mean of back pain intensity...”.

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'