Reviewer's report

Title: Health related muscular fitness, physical activity participation, metabolic syndrome and walking capacity in schizophrenia patients: a cross-sectional study

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Reviewer: Rohan Ganguli

Reviewer's report:

The subject is of topical interest and the paper is generally well written. It comes from a group which has been working in this area.

There is not enough details about the controls. The authors say that they "were recruited from among personnel of the participating centers' I assume this means health care workers, researchers, students, etc. Given that persons with schizophrenia are likely to be from a lower social class than controls drawn in this manner, needs to be discussed and justified. It has already been noted by the author that smoking rates differed between patients and controls... If the argument is that the level of fitness has something to do with the illness directly, it might have been better to match the controls on characteristics which might be presumed to affect fitness.

The controls and patients were matched it is said, for age, BMI, and sex. But with only 40 controls, I am assuming that they were not matched pair-wise to the schizophrenia subjects. Given that the number of data points in the two groups is not the same, the authors should discuss why it was appropriate to use t tests for paired samples.

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:

No competing interests