Reviewer’s report

Title: Computer-induced health complaints and sources of ergonomic instructions in computer-related issues among Finnish adolescents: A cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 18 December 2008

Reviewer: Christiane Stock

Reviewer’s report:

This manuscript studies computer-induced health complaints and examines whether adolescents have received ergonomic instructions for prevention. It is a well written article on an interesting subject, which I believe needs only minor revision prior to publication. The authors themselves state that some of their measures, such as the complaint scale and the information on the sources and content of instruction and education have been somewhat limited. Therefore, further research is needed on prevention of computer-induced health complaints in adolescents, but this study can serve as a pilot in this area.

Minor essential revisions:
1) The results section should be structured by headings for the different topics.
2) In the part reporting results of table 4 (page 11) comparisons are described between girls and boys and between age groups without reporting the p-values.
3) In table 5 computer use time was entered into the model as a confounding variable. However, this variable may be an effect modifier, as table 2 shows that health complaints increase with computer use time. How would the results look like for the high users (more than 1 hour/day)?
4) Page 17, 2nd paragraph, 2nd sentence: please change “avoided” to “ruled out”.
5) Page 18, 3rd paragraph, 2nd sentence: please change “with the longer hours spent” to “with the longer time spent”.

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.