Reviewer's report

Title: The impact of self-reported exposure to whole-body-vibrations on the risk of disability pension among men: a 15 year prospective study

Version: 1 Date: 31 July 2009

Reviewer: Dag Bruusgaard

Reviewer's report:

You have submitted a relevant, nicely done and clearly written article. I have just one important objection.

1) I do not feel convinced that your controlling for work factors is sufficient. We know there is a dramatic difference in disability pensioning according to level of education. Although this divide is mainly explained by working conditions (work related health problems and health related work problems), the WBV cases is a special group not nessesary fully controlled for by your three work environment variables. Other conditions than WBV COULD explain the found differences. This must at least be discussed more carefully and the conclusion must be a bit more modest.

Have you considered controlling for health problems at inclusion? Could attribution be a problem in self reporting, could persons with health problems at inclusion put the blame on WBV and hence be more eager to report it?

I doubt ".. a substantial reduction..." is possible "..through such means..". Disability pensioning is a very complex phenomenon!

Some minor problems

2) You could shorten the statement of the importance of disability pension, it is well known (Background)

3) Should really the exposure to road bumps be regarded as whole body VIBRATION?

4) you should decide on using either "physical demands and body posture" or "physical job demands and awkward work postures"

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:
I declare that I have no competing interests