Reviewer's report

Title: Late-life coronary heart disease mortality of Finnish war veterans in the TAMRISK study, a 28-year follow-up

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Reviewer: Sidsel Graff-Iversen

Reviewer's report:

The topic of this study is important and this manuscript on late-life mortality in veterans is of public health interest. However, the information on the war injuries is very limited, the follow-up started decades after the war, and the number of men included is relatively low. Some major compulsory revisions need to be made.

First, it should be made very clear that the aim is to study late-life mortality in war veterans who were alive (and relatively healthy?) by the age of 55 years. This should be clear also in the abstract (Background).

Next, physically wounded veterans are compared with war veterans who were not physically wounded. The two groups may have several mental and physical background differences, in addition to the difference in body height. The term "control" should not be used here. Instead terms such as "comparison group" or "non-wounded veterans" can be applied.

A major limitation is that no information was collected from the physically wounded veterans on the nature/extent of the wounds/injuries, including possible long-term physical consequences. Table 1 tells something, but not very much, about their health at age 55. The veterans’ high level of exercise may imply that most of them did not have physical disabilities and that their health was fairly good. But it’s not clear if this was the case. Is it possible to extend Table 1 with more information from the 1980 survey? Was a question on "health in general" included? Is there information on work or disability pension? Other measures on health and ability?

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interest related to this manuscript.