Reviewer's report

Title: Measuring health-related quality of life in men with osteoporosis or osteoporotic fracture

Version: 2 Date: 29 August 2011

Reviewer: Charlie Goldsmith

Reviewer's report:

In general, this paper is reasonably well done; however, there are several suggestions that could improve the paper further.

1. P(age) 1, Addresses, l(ine) 4, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17. There is use of a term [s/n] which is not clear. Does this represent the postal code, and if so, why is it needed? It is not used with all numbers that appear to be postal codes.
2. P 2, p(aragraph) 1, l 2 and 3. Suggest replacing [The studies had …] by [Studies have …].
3. P 2, p 1, l 5. Suggest replacing […] little data is …] by […] few data are …]. Data is a plural word.
7. P 3, p 2, l 1. Replace [our country reflects] by [Spain reflect].
8. P 3, p 3, l 1. Replace [is] by [are].
10. P 3, p 5. Provide a reference to these issues.
13. P 4, p 3, l 1. Insert a space and rewrite as [< 5.0 minutes and 12.3].
14. P 4, p 4, l 2. Rewrite as [few data are available on the Spanish male population].
15. P 4, p 5, l 3. Rewrite as [> 70].
17. P 4, p 6, l 9. Provide some references for [being advised].
18. P 5, p 1, l 1. Since [or] logically includes [and], drop [and/]. Also P 5, p 8, l 3. Also P 6, p 1, l 3.


21. P 5, p 6, l 1. Is there a reference to base the standard deviation of 0.35 on, rather than just a statement? Also suggest replacing [the mean of the variable] by [the means of the variables].

22. P 5, p 6, l 2. Why is 0.15 considered to be a minimum clinically important difference? Do the authors agree that this is the minimum for Spain, or does it have wider agreement for the research community?

23. P 5, p 6, l 5. Rewrite as [5% and power of 95%). Also why is power set so high, it normally is put as 80%? Is there a reference as to why this is needed?

24. P 5, p 8, l 6. To make the text gender neutral, suggest rewriting as [...] gives consent on behalf of the subject.]

25. P 6, p 1, l 1. Replace [randomization] by [sampling]. You are not doing a randomized trial but you are proposing to randomly sample 140 subjects with and 140 without fractures from physician practices and measure QoL in them.


27. P 6, p 5, l 4. Make the 2 a superscript to read as [kg/m²].


29. P 7, p 1, l 5. Rewrite as [# 5]. Insert a space.

30. P 7, p 2, l 5. This reviewer could not verify these recommendations. The website at [www.iscd.org] comes up fine; however, the path to the recommendations is not clear. However, the website at P 7, p 3, l 4 worked fine.

31. P 7, last p, l 3. Replace [K-W] by the name of the test [Kruskal-Wallis] and provide a reference to it as well as the Mann-Whitney test in the previous paragraph as they are not common the public health literature.

32. P 8, p 2 and 3. Provide reference to the Hosmer-Lemeshow test as it is not common in the public health literature.

33. P 8, p 5, l 5. Suggest deleting [(three fold security)] as it is in fact more risky than having one person!

34. P 8, p 7, l 4 to 6. Consider adding an agreement analysis of the two people who use the FRAX software before having a third person break the difference. This analysis could also be done with results from 3 people as well. It would add to the reliability of using the software, unless the people being used in your study already have published their agreement.

35. P 8, p 8, l 2 to 4. Is there published evidence for this?

36. P 9, p 3, l 4. Over what time frame is [incidence] to be calculated?

37. P 9, p 4. There is a need to add Y, N and AU to the list of short forms.

38. P 10 and 11. The R(eference)s that are in Spanish, should be placed in square brackets and translated into English. Then on the last line of each R, there should be added [(in Spanish)]. This is true for R 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 14, 19.
A random sample of 10 Rs was checked for citation accuracy. Also, this reviewer likes to see issue numbers as they make it easier to find when searching for a R. Also the BMC journals like to see all author names and not truncated as in R 2, 9, 13, 16..

39. P 10, R 1, l 4. Insert [(5)] after [17].
40. P 10, R 2, l 1. The second author has initials [CC], and there are more authors. On l 3, insert [(5)] after [20].
41. P 11, R 7, l 2. The last P number is [85] rather than [86].
42. P 11, R 8, l 2. Insert [(6)] after [29].
43. P 11, 8, l 1. The third author is [Agnus Dei D], and the author [Egger P] should be after [Caulin F], and there are more authors. On l 3, insert [(1)] after [7].
44. P 11, R 11, l 3. Insert [(3)] after [20].
46. P 11, R 18, l 2. The second listed author has in initials [P] rather than [MP].
47. P 11, R 19, l 1. The following authors have more to their names: [Encabo Dura G, Casado Butgos E, Aguye Batista A]. On l 3, rewrite as [2011;136(14):613-9. (In Spanish)]. The title should be in square brackets.
48. P 18, p 1, l 2. Delete [and/]. Also P 18, p 2, l 3.
49. P 18, p 4, l 6. Delete [in order] in front of [to] as the words are redundant in English.
50. P 18, p 6, l 4. Replace [Ethic] by [Ethics].