Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence of low back pain and associated occupational factors among Chinese coal miners

Version: 7 Date: 27 January 2012

Reviewer: Tapio Videman

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The authors added results of separate analyses for surface workers.

They also stated that they “do not support that physical activity … is included in most preventive and therapeutic interventions targeting spinal disorders...” This statement is interesting and supports the view that physical loading is harmful, but their view it ignores numerous articles and guidelines without any arguments in introduction or discussion.

The authors did not respond why they think that 1/3 of miners had not reported “discomfort or pain” in the back in past year. The interesting point here is why they not reported, because practically all normal humans have it sometimes during 12 months.