Reviewer's report

Title: Type A personality, hostility, time urgency and unintentional injuries among Chinese undergraduates: A matched case-control study

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Reviewer: Robert Atkins

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this paper. Overall, the writing is clear and organized and this is an interesting and worthwhile area of personality research.

I had a several problems with the manuscript.

Hostility versus Type A personality. In reading the paper I had some concerns that the focus was more on hostility than the Type A personality. As I'm sure that the authors are aware number of personality researchers have argued that the Type A personality construct is only important as it pertains to hostility and anger (Williams, 2001). At the very least I would suggest that the authors revise the Discussion to acknowledge that point because the findings from the study do seem to support that argument.

Active versus sedentary. The authors should revise the manuscript to make it clear that they have not measured sports participation. The authors do not control for the fact that activity is associated with increased likelihood of injury? They did not control for sports – the measure was “do you like sports?” The authors do not provide a measure of how much time the participant engage in sports, the intensity of sports, or the types of sports.

Temporal aspects. The authors should also note that they did not control for the possibility that injury may have caused a change in personality trait (e.g., hostility). As this is cross-sectional data it is not possible to conclude that the personality type preceded the injury.


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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the
statistics.