Reviewer's report

**Title:** Education-related differences in physical performance after age 60: a cross-sectional study assessing variation by age, gender and occupation

**Version:** 2 **Date:** 4 March 2013

**Reviewer:** Soham Al Snih

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Title: Education-related differences in physical performance after age 60: a cross-sectional study assessing variation by age, gender and occupation.

Abstract: Concise and specific.

Introduction: The literature used is pertinent to the study and the purpose of the study was clearly stated.

Methods The study design was appropriate to achieve the objective. Study population and all measures were well described. I have a comment:

The results were presented as percentage difference compared to a reference group. However, in this way is difficult to see in the Tables how the association between education and physical performance measures losses significance with the addition of covariates. Were mediating effects tested? In other words were the percent reductions statistically significant? For example, when education-related differences were found for both men and women in balance, chair stands, and walking speed, the addition of occupational class among men was attenuated. Was the reduction in the coefficients for the model with and without occupational class variable statistically significant?

Results: Three Tables and one Figure (4 Panels). Well presented.

Discussion:
1. Previous pertinent literature was mentioned.
2. Study limitations and implications were identified.

References: There were 39 and all are appropriate.

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**
'I declare that I have no competing interests'