Reviewer’s report

Title: Impacts of mobility disability and high and increasing body mass index on health-related quality of life and participation in society: a population-based cohort study from Sweden

Version: 3 Date: 14 February 2014

Reviewer: Jiro Okochi

Reviewer’s report:

The objective here is to study mobility disability, high body mass index (BMI), and increasing BMI over time as predictors of health-related quality of life and participation in society. I believe this is an important study for those who working in this field.

Major compulsory revisions

Method

Stockholm population was indicated in the study. However, the target of this study is people between ages 18–64 years old. Please indicate the population size of this study.

Also, How successful was stratified random sampling? For example, was the age and sex distribution of the original population similar to the sample?

Following exclusion was indicated in the flow chart.

Individuals who did not meet the criteria for having mobility disability in both 2002 and 2010.

However authors mentioned in the method section “Individuals whose BMI increased or decreased by >15 units between the two surveys were excluded as well as individuals who reported that they had mobility limitations in only one of the two surveys”

Which is true? In both 2002 and 2010 or in only one of the two surveys?

Question about participation in p.8.

It says “In the present study, participation was defined as taking part at the labor market and/or in society. The two questions that formed the base for participation were “What is your main employment right now?” and “In the past 12 months, have you more or less regularly participated in activities in society together with several other people?” The dichotomous answer alternatives were “Yes” or “No” [20].”

Although the participation section is very important outcome of this study, authors indicated this study used only two questions about participation in the society and labor market. The content of labor participation can range from participating in
one-day work during the study period. In addition, social activity with several other people can vary from inactive participation to active participation. This should be mentioned as weakness of this study.

In addition, participation in the labor market and social activities are two very different aspects of life. Therefore, I would recommend analyzing the data for labor participation and social activities separately leading to two different outcomes.

Discussion
I do not think the following sentence is derived from the result of this study and needs to be deleted.

“The importance of participation in society for individuals with disability is very well-known in the disability research field, and has been transferred into the ICF classification and defined as involvement in their own life situation [15]. However, the concept of participation in the ICF classification needs to include subjective experience of meaning and autonomy [35].

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 declare that I have no competing interests