Reviewer's report

Title: Epidemiology of leisure - time physical activity, in relation to socio-demographic, lifestyle and psychological characteristics of men and women, in Greece; the ATTICA Study

Version: 1 Date: 28 February 2005

Reviewer: Merete Osler

Reviewer's report:

General
In this cross-sectional study the authors analyse how a number of sociodemographic, behavioural and physiological variables correlate with Leisure-Time Physical Activity (LTPA) in an adult Greek population.

During recent years a number of studies in different population on determinants of LTPA have been published. The main contribution of the present study to the existing knowledge seems to be that it represents a Greek population. Further, the study has an acceptable participation rate and the data collection and the paper generally gives a proper description of the material and method.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

However, the authors do not address a fundamental problem in their interpretation and discussion of the results- that the study is cross-sectional. Thus it is difficult to separate “cause” from effects. It also seems misleading to compare the present results with those from follow-up studies.

Further, it is not very clear in the presentation what the authors assume are determinants and outcome. They both present the % of LPTA in relation to determinants (table 1 and text) and the % of determinants in relation to different categories of LTPA. If the focus is sociodemographic, behavioural and physiological “determinants” of LTPA, the first approach seems most appropriate.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Abstract:
The text... behavioural distribution of LPTA... is not very clear.
The conclusion goes much too far than the results from this cross-sectional study allow.

The power calculation is not sufficiently reported. The power not only depends on the number of cases (low LTPA) but also of the distribution of the determinants.

Table 1 does not add much information.

Discussion: See the first point above. Further, the section on study limitation is rather brief and not very informative. E.g. Misreporting of physical activity status due to self reports cannot entirely be excluded. Agree, but so what?
Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

**What next?:** Accept after minor essential revisions

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests