Reviewer's report

Title: Leisure time physical activity in middle age predicted the metabolic syndrome and diabetes in old age: A 28-year follow-up of men in the Oslo Study.

Version: 1 Date: 15 January 2007

Reviewer: Kelly J Hunt

Reviewer's report:

General

----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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

----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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

----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

The manuscript titled, “Leisure time physical activity in middle age predicted the metabolic syndrome and diabetes in old age: A 28-year follow-up of men in the Oslo study” is well written and of interest to readers of BMC.

I have only a few minor comments:
1. Tables 2 and 3 could be labeled more clearly. Without reading the text it is difficult to determine which variables were actually included in each model.
2. Second paragraph of the Subjects and Methods section, third line: the word ‘a’ should be deleted.
3. Third paragraph of Subjects and methods section: The first sentence starting with ‘In connection…’ is not written clearly. Please clarify.
4. First paragraph of statistics section: Please specify what percent of people did not fast for at least 8 hours. If the majority of people did not fast for 8 hours please discuss how this may influence both the definition of the metabolic syndrome as well as the definition of diabetes. How might this affect your results in general? Was length of fasting time at follow-up associated with LTPA levels at baseline?
5. Results section, first paragraph, second to last sentence: please be consistent and use either the word prevalence or proportion.
6. Discussion: final sentence under Metabolic Syndrome heading: please specify that an increase in LTPA ‘during middle age’ may contribute to lowering of the risk of CVD.
7. Discussion: final paragraph before Strengths and limitations section, first sentence should read: ‘…was a strong predictor…’
8. Final paragraph of the discussion section: Talk a little bit more about how selective survival likely influenced the results.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance 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.