Reviewer’s report

Title: A Systematic Review of Post-Deployment Injury-Related Mortality Among Military Personnel Deployed to Conflict Zones

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Reviewer: María Seguí-Gómez

Reviewer’s report:

The paper presents a very interesting review on the evidence regarding post-combat higher injury-related mortality among military personnel. Selection/Exclusion criteria are well defined and reasons to merge findings into metaanalysis well justified. There are a couple of points that I would like better discussed in the manuscript:

a) regarding the validity of the quality scoring system they use to value data sources (which seems very arbitrary in nature, but since it has an impact on the weight of the papers in the metaanalysis stage, I believe it worthy of some sensitivity analysis)

b) regarding the conclusions. SEveral hypothesis are suggested, which can be merely a reflection of conclusions raised in the original reports. Yet, none of those are tested themselves in the review here presented. For example, whether this higher mortality (at least in relation to motor vehicle crashes) is related to higher crash rates or higher mortality when controlling by crash exposure seems particularly important since the issue of risk factors such as mental health, substance abuse, etc may be very different in one instance vs the other (i.e., if higher mortality is so even if controlling for crashes issues of comorbidities may be more important that pre-crash issues).

Last, I miss seeing some of the findings in a more graphica form.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interest´s below