Reviewer’s report

Title: Breathlessness increases the risk of urinary incontinence in men: A community-based study

Version: 1 Date: 28 July 2009

Reviewer: Carol Link

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1) The title is inappropriate. This is a cross-sectional study. All you can say is that breathlessness is associated with urine leakage. No causation can be implied.

2) You need to include the fact that this is a convenience sample in the abstract.

3) The prevalence of incontinence appears to be low. You are counting everyone who leaked any urine (once a week or less often is the least frequent category for the ICIQ). You need to clarify your definition as any urine leakage (for people who are not familiar with the ICIQ).

4) Many of your references refer to women. It is not clear that the same risk factors are applicable to men and women.

5) The lack of assessment for co-morbidities is troubling. It is not clear if the association is due to breathlessness or cough or the underlying co-morbidity causing the breathlessness or cough.

6) Since the information on incontinence in men is limited, it would be potentially useful to give complete frequencies for each item of the ICIQ.

Minor Revisions

7) Please spell out all abbreviations (e.g. n, SD or CI are never defined).

Discretionary Revisions

8) A reference that you may find useful:
Prevalence of and risk factors for urine leakage in a racially and ethnically diverse population of adults: the Boston Area Community Health (BACH) Survey.
Tennstedt SL, Link CL, Steers WD, McKinlay JB.
PMID: 18182376 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.