Reviewer's report

Title: Aetiology and risk factors of musculoskeletal disorders in physically active conscripts: a follow-up study in the Finnish Defence Forces

Version: 2 Date: 26 April 2010

Reviewer: Monika Wahi

Reviewer's report:

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS: None.
MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS: None.
DISCRETIONARY REVISIONS:
1. I just want to begin with a note to say that I really like how you revised the manuscript! I think it is very clear now. I like the figure that explains how people were excluded from the study. I also like the way you present your results. Your conclusions put forth actionable recommendations. An excellent manuscript!

2. In the Results part of the abstract, you still say “during the one-year study period...”. I understand now that technically you were executing the study over a year, but in reality, you only followed each individual for at maximum 180 days. Therefore, I’d recommend you de-emphasize the “one-year” part because although it is technically correct, it’s a little confusing.

3. I feel like Table 6 should come right after Table 1 and before the HR results, and these tables should be introduced in the results in that order. I think you discuss them in that order (Table 1 and then Table 6), but then, shouldn’t they be Tables 1 and 2? This is minor but I think it would improve the flow of the paper.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

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 interests.