Reviewer’s report

Title: Neck pain and postural balance among workers with high postural demands - a cross-sectional study

Version: 3 Date: 28 February 2011

Reviewer: Julia Treleaven

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There has been considerable improvement to the manuscript but given the responses and new data now available I have a couple of reservations.

I am still wondering whether the exclusion criteria were sufficient to take out all other possible causes of disturbed balance and feel that this should be stated both in the methods and the limitations.

With respect to the new information of results of the single leg stance failure it would appear that the main finding now is that it is only significant if the cleaners have both neck and back pain. There are no differences in failure rates of those without pain, vs low back pain or neck pain only. This has not been spelt out in the discussion and should be discussed. The only finding really is that neck pain impairs balance with the CEA and rambling.

Abstract:

Should reflect the findings relating to confounders of back pain.

Methods

Should be stated that other exclusion criteria were not specifically determined.

Discussion and Conclusions need to be adjusted to reflect actual findings relating to neck pain and balance- if just look at neck pain- most of balance tests - no significant differences between those with neck pain and those without neck pain.

Limitations and areas for future research

State that this could be considered – eg any correlations between fail single leg stance and age, days of neck pain, concurrent back pain etc.?? , time to failure etc.

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

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.