Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Comparison of knee osteoarthritis between ex-elite male table tennis players and control subjects

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 13 October 2011

**Reviewer:** Jyrki Kettunen

**Reviewer’s report:**

Overall, the manuscript include novel data if we look at one specific point of view i.e. table tennis as a risk factor for knee OA. However, it is well documented that vigorous physical activity is a risk factor for knee OA.

The manuscript is overall well written and the conclusion is supported by the results. However, especially the result section has to write much more clearly.

At methodological point of view the study has some limitations. Firstly, the study included ex-elite athletes who are still active players, which may cause so called "healthy exerciser bias". Secondly, history of knee injury is a risk factor for knee OA, and subjects with lower-limb operative treatment have been excluded from the study. Some of those excluded subjects may have had severe sport-related injury, and severe knee symptoms.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.