Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence of multi-site musculoskeletal symptoms: a French cross-sectional working population-based study

Version: 2 Date: 11 November 2011

Reviewer: Praneet Pensri

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Major Compulsory Revisions
1. Please describe the definition of musculoskeletal symptoms (MSSs) used in this study. Did they mean only symptoms from work-related musculoskeletal disorders? Was it possible that the cause of MSSs involving activities of daily living or sports?
2. Did the study have the exclusion criteria when recruiting subjects?
3. The study methods warrant further description: it is not clear that MSSs reported by each worker in the questionnaire were clinically confirmed by occupational physicians. And did all participated physicians perform similar physical examinations?
4. In the results section, it is indicated that prevalence of MSSs increased with age (page 9), but the data related to this notion were not shown. If the authors would like to present this result, please provide more relevant information and discuss the result.
5. It would be of important to present the prevalence of multisite MSSs and MSSs lasting more than 30 days (page 9, paragraph 3) in a tabular format since the results were the main outcome of the study, it should be clear and easy to follow for readers.
6. Discussion on the prevalence of MSSs in various anatomical regions is needed.
7. The limitation of the study is needed.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. In the results section, it is stated that the prevalence of MSSs in the neck, shoulder, wrist, upper back, and knee or lower leg between men and women were significant difference (page 9). It could be helpful, if the legend to table 1 would include the significance level.

Discretionary Revisions
1. In the methods section, it would be better to move Paragraph 3 (pages 6) presenting subjects 'characteristics (in study design and population section) to the beginning of the results section. Also, it would be of interest to demonstrate the subjects 'characteristics data in a tabular format.
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.