Reviewer’s report

Title: A prospective study of the impact of musculoskeletal pain and radiographic osteoarthritis on health related quality of life in community dwelling older people

Version: 2 Date: 16 February 2012

Reviewer: Bård Natvig

Reviewer’s report:

This is in my opinion an interesting and well-written article.

There are however some advanced statistics that I do not feel qualified to assess, so I would recommend that a statistician also review the article.

I do only have some minor comments and suggestions (discretionary revisions):

page 3: n=1053 for "decline over 5 years" - not necessary information in the abstract.

page 7: ...OARSI atlas (as previously described)....described where? the reference is to the atlas itself?

page 8: same comment about "as previously described"...TTM Muscular Meter...

page 10: Participants: Why exclude persons "who did not have an MRI at Phase 1"? Isn’t it X-ray that is used in this study?

page 10: Joint pain is used two times at the lower part of the page. I think anatomical sites used in figure 1 is a better term for what you study.

page 12: Is it correct that p<0.001 for difference over time when all 95 % CI overlap, even if you use mixed models? I am not a statistician, but this kind of results make me wonder.....so if it is correct you might consider to comment or explain for readers like me?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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