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: 3 Date: 16 July 2012

Reviewer: Pekka Määttänen

Reviewer's report:

The authors have been able to carefully respond to the comments and they gave considered them seriously. As well, they have made the relevant changes and clarifications in the manuscript. The method section, as well, the article in general is more compact and clear. Therefore, I don’t feel confused any more with this manuscript.

I have some questions (that do not need to be answered but considered).
Can it be concluded that in general population with elderly people, pain (with or without OA) has more impact on QoL than OA? Further, can it be concluded (or first analyzed) that among people with OA, pain impacts more on QoL than the radiological changes of OA?

I have some more minor questions and remarks. Prevalence or RA (reported in Table 1) seems to be quite high and higher than in other populations, I think. Are the percentages right here? Are those percentages comparable with the results obtained from other studies?
For some characteristics, only percentages are shown while for some characteristics both numbers and percentages are shown (Table 1). Is the prevalence of OA comparable with other studies?

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.