Reviewer's report

Title: A systematic review of the etiopathogenesis of Kienbock's disease and a critical appraisal of its recognition as an occupational disease

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Reviewer: Roberta Bonfiglioli

Reviewer's report:

It is an interesting paper, authors review the literature on the various etiologies of Kienbock's disease. The aim was to understand the role of occupation (mainly HAV exposure) as causative of Kienbock's disease.

Minor Essential Revisions

In the discussion section authors has clearly reported that the lack of association should be due to a poor exposure assessment in the majority of papers reviewed.

Occupational exposure to hand-arm vibration or to biomechanical overload could also imply a different pathogenetic mechanism (acting mainly on the vascular or the articular tissues).

Furthermore a large proportion of the studies came from case reports, case series or expert opinion from which a causal association cannot be proved.

These two issues should be expanded in the discussion.

References: 5,43,55 are the same

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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'