Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence of chronic musculoskeletal disorders in elderly Brazilians: a systematic review of the literature

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Reviewer: Clermont E Dionne

Reviewer's report:

This paper reports the results of a systematic review that was conducted on the prevalence of musculoskeletal disorders among older Brazilians. In the context of the ageing of populations, documenting the frequency of musculoskeletal disorders in older individuals is very important. It is even more important as there are very few reports of the frequency of musculoskeletal disorders in developing country, and as Brazil is among the fastest ageing nations.

This article concludes that musculoskeletal disorders are very frequent among older Brazilians, especially in lower limbs and the low back. It also underlines once again the vast heterogeneity in the definitions of musculoskeletal disorders there is in the scientific literature, the varying methodological quality of published studies, and the need to further our understanding of these disorders with better research efforts.

The question under study is well defined and very pertinent.

The article is very well written and interesting to read.

The methods are well described and seem rigorous. I wonder, however, why the Embase and CINAHL databases haven't been searched.

The results are presented efficiently. The figure and tables are informative and well designed.

The discussion is thorough and well balanced.

The title and abstract accurately convey the research question and results.

- Major Compulsory Revisions: Please, explain how the database were chosen and why the Embase and CINAHL databases were not included.

- Minor Essential Revisions and Questions (not for publication)

Page 8, line 15: “...whether they had received...”?

Page 18, Legend of Table 3: “? = uncertain”

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.