Reviewer's report

Title: Construct validity of functional capacity tests in healthy workers

Version: 2 Date: 5 April 2013

Reviewer: Martin Descarreaux

Reviewer's report:

Major Issues:
Comment 1
The authors have made significant changes to the manuscript. They have addressed the major issues of statistical analyses and possible multicollinearity in their data set. At this point I don't feel fully qualified to assess the changes made to this particular topic and suggest that if a biostatistician can confirm that the results presented in this study are not only due to a gender effect, the manuscript is suitable for publication pending on minor revisions.

Minor revisions:
Comment 2
Intro - Page 7 first paragraph: The following sentence should be re written in the conditional tense since it relates to future results and studies including the one presented. "It is of importance to analyze these assumed relationships in a sample of healthy workers, because it helps to understand what we are actually testing [13], which is important theoretically to unravel the construct of FC and to develop valid FC tests for healthy workers".

Comment 3
Page 10 (body function paragraph): "We employed a protocol in which isometric handgrip strength was measured with the subject in a seated position with the shoulder adducted and elbow flexed 90°. I would suggest the following sentence: Isometric handgrip strength was measured using a protocol (or according to a protocol if published elsewhere) where subjects were tested in a seated position with the shoulder adducted and elbow flexed 90°.

Comment 4
Page 11 last paragraph: "Education Educational status was collected." Is this a sentence or a title. Please correct.

Comment 5
Appendix 2:
if appendix 2 is to be published, I would recommend that all inter-correlation coefficients be published instead of only the strong ones.
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.