Reviewer’s report

Title: A comparative study on the prevalence of musculoskeletal complaints among musicians and non-musicians.

Version: 1 Date: 11 August 2012

Reviewer: Deborah Alperovitch

Reviewer’s report:

I found the article interesting and usually clear. Comments 1-3 are of Major Compulsory Revisions. Comments 4-5 are of Minor Essential Revisions.

1. The most important comment is that there are actually three comparison groups according to tables 1-2, yet in the aim of the study, in the results and in the discussion both medicine-student groups are not expressed.

2. Another important comment to my understanding concerns the multivariate analysis. It is unclear to me how it was done, which variates were adjusted. As it is important it will be better to see the multivariate results in a table.

3. In the aim of the study page 5, instead of ‘influence of type of instrument on musculoskeletal complaints’ it should be ‘association between type of…’, as it is impossible to draw such a conclusion in a cross-sectional study.

A similar comment concerns the discussion 'draw conclusions concerning the effect of a specific instrument type…'. No conclusion can be drawn concerning the effect…

4. The last sentence in page 11 seems unfinished.

5. In the results page 9 'The music academy students were comparable with the medical students with respect to age, gender…', there was a significant difference in age.

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