Reviewer's report

Title: Intramuscular fat in ambulant young adults with bilateral spastic cerebral palsy

Version: 2
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Reviewer: Freeman Miller

Reviewer's report:

This paper confirms some increased intramuscular fat compared to subcutaneous fat. Although the paper reports intra muscular fat, it is not clear how the extramuscular but subfascial fat is segmented using this scan. Based on my understanding I think this most likely segments the extramuscular subfascial fat to the intra muscular segment, if this is the case then the terminology might better be more inclusive like muscle compartment fat level.

Also I feel the implication that it is possible to exercise the muscle and reducing the fat is conjecture which is unlikely, based on the multiple abnormal changes which have been reported in spastic muscle, from the muscle fiber, connective tissue, abnormal neuromotor junctions and reduced motor control.

This study does raise the questions of the physiologic impact this might have, however there are no reports of glucose intolerance or diabetes in children with CP. This does reasonably raise the question if this has just never been investigated or if the intramuscular fat in this population has a different etiology or different implication.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no conflict related to the topic of this paper