Reviewer's report

Title: Adolescent postural response to backpack carrying conditions: a randomised controlled experimental study

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Reviewer: Dr David Pascoe

Level of interest: A paper of considerable general medical or scientific interest

Advice on publication: Accept after discretionary revisions

There has been considerable work done on this paper. I commend the authors on their diligence. I appreciate your research focus.

The revised title of the manuscript should remain as stated on the paper. This differs from their title suggested in reviewer comments.

Page 6, lines 14-17 clarify that similar weights refers to relative load (similar load per body weight).

Page 7, lines 12, 13 The paper mentions cardiovascular fitness, socioeconomic status, and physical maturity as being measured in a previous study. If this was not measured in this investigation, remove it from the methods section. If this is an important point from previous investigations, bring it up in the discussion section. If it was also measured in this investigation, no data or discussion has been provided.

Page 14, line 2 "of different" needs to be corrected. Also remove the one widowed parentheses.

In the discussion, when discussing the 10% load recommendation, the authors may want to state that there has been anecdotal reports of student reported pain symptoms that may suggest an association between increased bookbag loads and pain. I believe you have this type of evidence in load carriage of less than 10% (3.7 kg load studies).

Competing interests:

None declared.