Reviewer's report

Title: Risk factors for traumatic and non-traumatic lower limb pain among preadolescents: a population-based study of Finnish schoolchildren

Version: 1 Date: 2 August 2005

Reviewer: Dag Bruusgaard

Reviewer's report:

Pain in children is an important topic, and there is a need for studies going further than just describing prevalences and associations. You have tried to elaborate lower limb pain (LLP) by dividing such complaints into traumatic and non-traumatic cases and conclude that this differentiation is important in future studies.

The main problem of the study is that overuse/strain is categorized as non-traumatic. This could make the difference between the two groups less than it otherwise might be, and I would strongly advice future research to take this into consideration. You have not even discussed it.

I would start with a general presentation of LLP as done in table 2 and then go to the subdividing into traumatic and non-traumatic.

Figure 2 should rather be a table including proportion with traumatic complaints.

Why call chest pain, musculoskeletal pain, and abdominal pain, psychosomatic symptom?

You do not describe the "subjective disability index" under Method.

You refer to figure 1 on page 11, incorrectly.

You find that your findings contradict the ones from Knapik. That is not correct. Soliders have the same high level of physical activity. The ones in bad shape have more injuries.

Among children the level of activity varies considerably. If they all had the same high level of activity, I would expect most i complaints in the group with the lowest aerobic fitness.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'

My only problem is that I have reviewed this article before. The present version is better than the last.

I would like to have my own copy of my comments- is that possible?