Author's response to reviews

Title: Physical inactivity is associated with chronic musculoskeletal complaints 11 years later: Results from the Nord-Trondelag Health Study

Authors:

Helene S Holth (helenesu@stud.ntnu.no)
Hanne KB Werpen (werpen@stud.ntnu.no)
John-Anker Zwart (j.a.zwart@medisin.uio.no)
Knut Hagen (knut.hagen@ntnu.no)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Re: "Physical activity is associated with chronic musculoskeletal complaints 11 years later: results from the Nord-Trøndelag Health Study"

We are grateful for the opportunity to submit a second revision of the manuscript. We have carefully considered the comments from reviewer 3, and accordingly revised the enclosed manuscript. The changes in our manuscript are highlighted using bold text.

Reviewer 1 (Karin I Proper):
No comments

Reviewer 2 (Jan Hartviksen):
No comments

Reviewer 3 (Susan Picavet):
1. As recommended, we have clarified that level of physical activity measurements were different at baseline (HUNT 1) and at follow up (HUNT 2), and that the interpretation of physical activity data in HUNT 2 had to be evaluated with caution because the questions about chronic MSCs were collected at the same time (page 12, paragraph 3). As mentioned on page 12, the combined data supported the positive influence of physical exercise on chronic MSCs.

2. On page 11 we have rewritten the discussion, clarifying the reason why individuals with chronic MSCs were subdivided into non-widespread and widespread MSCs. This is also mentioned on page 4, paragraph 1, lines 4-8. As mentioned in the previous response letter, the relationship between physical exercise and different anatomical sites will be evaluated in more detail by another HUNT research group (which we not are a part of) in the future.
3. As recommended, we have expanded the conclusions, informing that previous studies have shown conflicting results, and that our large-scale population-based follow-up study supports the results from two previous prospective studies focusing on more selected groups (page 14).

4. The revised manuscript has correct reference numbers in the discussion.

5. As recommended, the phrase “occurrence” is changed to prevalence.

6. The manuscript has been re-read by a native English researcher before this submission.

On behalf of all authors;

Sincerely yours,

Knut Hagen, MD, PhD
Norwegian National Headache Centre
Department of Neurology
St. Olav’s Hospital
7006 Trondheim
Norway
E-mail: knut.hagen@ntnu.no