Reviewer's report

Title: Comparison of grip strength measurements at 15 degrees and 35 degrees wrist extension positions in chronic lateral epicondylalgia- athletes vs. non athletes: a case-control study

Version: 2 Date: 9 May 2010

Reviewer number: 1

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The researchers have put in some effort towards the study. However, there are some fundamental flaws in the study:

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined?
   The fact that grip strength is maximum in 10-15 degrees of wrist extension is well known in orthopaedic literature and hence the question does not add anything new.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work?
   The cases and controls are not matched. The athletes were 8 (there is no definition for the criterion to consider a subject as an athlete (the authors mention that athlete subjects were those engaged in recreational sports involving tennis or badminton which requires repetitive use of wrist extension position). However, someone who is involved in racquet sports on a regular or occasional basis has not been clarified. Also, the authors have mentioned that the condition is present in 1-3% of the normal population. It would be very difficult to comment on the behavior of a condition with 1-3% prevalence by studying only 30 patients. Even out of the 30 subjects studied all the athletic group is male (8) while 17 of the non-athletic group is female. Hence the groups are not sex matched and hence cannot be taken as a control group for the athletes. The authors should have taken athletes without tennis elbow as the control group.

The writing is acceptable.

Level of interest: Reject as not of sufficient priority to merit publishing in this journal

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.