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: 12 May 2010

Reviewer number: 2

Reviewer's report:

Dear authors,

It is my impression that your manuscript may have potential for publication. I had to change the format such as numbering the lines to address my comments more easily. Therefore, my comments have been added based on this change or added by comment box through the text.

Specific comments:
- Major Compulsory Revisions
  In method section, it is necessary to specify the power of study and randomisation of participants and order of tests.
- Minor Essential Revisions
  I had to use line numbering in Word format of manuscript and add my comments based on this change. Please refer to the attached file.

It would be better to use the true anatomical condition of lateral epicondylitis rather than the word of lateral epicondylalgia in title and whole manuscript.

Title: Comparison of grip strength measurements at 15 and 35 degrees wrist extension positions in patients with lateral epicondylitis; athletes vs. non-athletes

Line 8 page 1: two different wrist extension positions not three ...

In method section:
There are very long sentences. It could be better to describe them in short sentences.

Line 36 page 2: Adult subjects instead of subjects

In article, method section is classified in some different sections: study design, participant requirement and selection, intervention, outcome measure and finally data analysis. In this section, there is no need to write initial results such as the number of men and women, dominant arm and so on. Please transfer them to the result section.

Why you consider 35 degree? Please give the reference!

Please specify you did randomise your subjects before entering to study and for order of tests, as well.
What is the power of study? Why did you select 30 subjects? Have you carried out a pilot study?

Line 3 page 3: 30 subjects...(13 men, 17 women)

Line4-5 page 3: the number of participants is not correct. If you had 8 athletic subjects so 22 remained for nonathletic group not 17

Line 19 page 3: explain wrist orthosis structure

Hand grip: size of the handle - same for all? Different size based on size of hands?

Results: tables need to be changed according to SMART publication discipline, and provide detailed information about subjects such as age limit, ....

- Discretionary Revisions

All recommendations are essential and need to be consider to improve this study.

The DISCUSSION and CONCLUSION are quite good. I would hope to see this work published after you have completed the revisions.

Thank you for performing an important study.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.