Reviewer’s report

Title: The association between functional movement and overweight and obesity in British primary school children

Version: 1 Date: 7 August 2012

Reviewer number: 2

Reviewer’s report:

Minor essential revisions.

Abstract:

Findings: “…(P <0.05 or better).”

Please delete “or better”.

Introduction:

Last paragraph: “Therefore, as data examining...”

Please delete “Therfore,”.

Method (Participants):

86% Caucasian. What about the remaining 14%? Is race a confounding factor that may affect

weight status and/ or motor ability?

Please state the inclusion and exclusion criteria.

90 children from a primary school in Central England volunteered to participate in the study.

Were they screened? Some children with developmental disabilities such as developmental

coordination disorder and Asperger's syndrome also received education in mainstream schools.

Their medical conditions cause the motor deficits, not due to overweight/obesity.

Method (Data analysis):

Which assumption of MANOVA was not met? Try to remove the outliers and carry out parametric statistics if possible.

Discussion
First paragraph: “This study is the first to provide comprehensive data examining the effect of overweight and obesity on functional movement in children.”

Better change to “…examining the association between weight status and functional movement in children.”

Second paragraph: “…it is possible that functional limitation may have existed prior to overweight/obesity…it may be that functional limitation may lead to children being less physically active, gaining fat mass and will not develop the fundamental movement patterns that underpin performance…” Please use this reference to support your claim.


Fourth paragraph: The Messier et al. (2000) study is not relevant. Please delete it.

Seventh paragraph: “…persist into adolescence and adulthood, this will lead to a….” Please change ‘will’ to ‘may’.

Conclusion

Last sentence: “Further research is needed…”

Please correct the typo “…is needed…”.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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