Reviewer's report

Title: Perceived Personal Importance of Exercise and Fears of Re-injury: A Longitudinal Study of Psychological Factors Related to Activity after Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction

Version: 1 Date: 18 September 2014
Reviewer: Brandon J Erickson

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
- Define standard fixation method in methods
- Was the BTB graft auto or allograft?
- Define the “standard protocol” for the rehab program in an appendix
- Who administered the questionnaires? One of the authors, a student, medical assistant, surgeon, PA?
- Somewhere please indicate whether these questionnaires are validated or not
- Please make a flow diagram to explain the 36.4% of patients who were lost to follow up
- There is no mention of recall or reporting bias in the limitations section

Minor Essential Revisions
- In the background of the abstract, use the term ACL reconstruction instead of ACL surgery. While not frequently performed, ACL repair is also a treatment option, so please clarify.
- Please add in standard deviations where applicable (age in the results section of abstract etc)
- Add in references when you make statement such as, “anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injuries are among the most common causes for surgical intervention in sports medicine”
- Numbers less than 10 should be spelled out
- Please shorten the introduction. It gives good information, but should be shorter
- Give exact dates of recruitment
- Please make a chart describing the causes of injury
- Please give the return to sport rate at each year
- What was the revision rate of these patients?
- Were patients who had worse clinical outcomes less likely to engage in higher risk activities?
- Overall would try to condense this article. It is very long

Discretionary Revisions

- I personally don’t like abbreviating physical activity with PA, but that is your choice. I would spell it out

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'