Reviewer's report

Title: The longitudinal association of cognitive appraisals and coping strategies with physical functioning in older adults with joint pain and comorbidity: a cohort study

Version: 1 Date: 14 September 2015

Reviewer: Renuka Visvanathan

Reviewer's report:

The paper is very well written and was very interesting. It provides insight that is necessary to help design interventions. This is a timely study.

Major Compulsory Revision

The study is one of older people and cognitive function could affect performance on many of the scales. Can the author please comment on if there was cognitive assessment undertaken? Alternatively, this is a limitation of the study that should be discussed.

It is also noted that those who dropped out were older and had poorer physical function. The limitation to the study arising out of this also needs to be commented on. The authors should comment on the generalizability of their findings and what future research is important in this area.

Discretionary Revisions

In the introduction, it might be beneficial if the authors could provide details on how common joint pain is in older people, it's impact with increasing age and which joints are most commonly impacted. Some comments re the potential to address cognitive and coping approach as a non-pharmacological approach given that pharmacological treatment has multiple side effects with increasing age.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

There are no competing interests to declare