Reviewer’s report

Title: The trajectory of symptom burden in exposed and unexposed survivors of a major avalanche disaster: A 30 year long-term follow-up study

Version: 0 Date: 28 May 2018

Reviewer: Benjamin Vicente

Reviewer’s report:

A 30 years follow up design to evaluate mental health symptoms after a major natural disaster in exposed and unexposed subjects in itself of great value.

The scales and inventory used in the different waves seem appropriate as well as the statistical analysis.

Results are clearly presented and extensively compared with others coming from similar studies.

The most important limitations rightfully acknowledged by the authors is the small sample being studied and its composition (young Norwegian male soldiers).

Other element not sufficiently stressed in the discussion is that the control group (unexposed) was composed of those "standing outside the avalanche area". Which could explain the similarities in some of the follow up measures.

Despite the above the manuscript is an article of importance its field and should by considered for publication after discretionary revisions.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
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I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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