Reviewer’s report

Title: Does cycling make the heart flutter? Six year follow-up of the Taupo Cycle Challenge

Version: 2
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Reviewer: Norman Sharpe

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The authors have realized the excellent opportunity provided by a large scale cycling event to link survey questionnaire data from a sample of participants with hospital discharge data related to atrial fibrillation. Hospital admission due to AF was not increased above the national rate in the cyclists, and within the group, the rate of AF was not related to the amount of cycling.

The response rate in the study group of non-elite cyclists (predominantly male “weekend warriors”) was adequate at 43% and certainly sufficient to allow the stated conclusions. The follow-up period was relatively short however and it remains plausible that AF might be increased either with longer duration of exposure (ie many year of cycling) and/or with more prolonged follow-up over years.

The findings are of significance, also of general interest and reassuring. The paper is commendably concise and well written.

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare I have no competing interests