Reviewer's report

Title: Atrial fibrillation and cycling. Six year follow-up of the Taupo Bicycle Study

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Reviewer: Brian Olshansky

Reviewer's report:

The authors make little if any major changes and I suspect that that is not possible. The weaknesses that were there before cannot be easily explained away and remain weaknesses. I have no solution to this except to be completely open about the major issues for the sake of the readers. The data are generally interesting and the manuscript is well written.

1. The group may not be preselected but those who volunteered to be in the study may be a unique group of people who take better care of themselves, do less intense activity, etc. They are not representative and this cannot be explained away.

2. One cannot tell conclusively if the patients had atrial fibrillation (likely they did by admission) or not. The latter group is important. It appears that those that fit into the middle range of exercise had more AF.

3. Hospital admission is the not the best measure of AF.

4. The long term activities of the participants is unknown. We do not have a validated benchmark to compare against.

While the authors make comments about many of these points, I think they represent substantial limitations.

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 have no competing interests