Reviewer's report

Title: The association between sedentary behaviour and risk of anxiety: A Systematic Review

Version: 2 Date: 10 March 2015

Reviewer: Amanda Rebar

Reviewer's report:

The straightforward review was well-presented and well-conducted. The authors made a strong case for the rationale of the review and summarized the state of the literature well. Suggestions and comments follow:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1 – It is nice that the authors introduced potential mechanisms for the anxiolytic effects of sedentary behavior; however I think this should be extended in an important way. Specifically, it is important to consider how these acute effects of sedentary behavior on mood (e.g., distraction, CNS arousal, sleep) may result in more chronic/long-term impacts on anxiety symptoms or risk of anxiety.

2 – Selection Criteria: Please clarify the definition of “risk of anxiety” used for the purposes of this review. Does this encompass likelihood of developing a disorder and non-clinical anxiety symptoms?

3 – Please clarify what is meant by ‘domain’ in the first sentence on page 6: “Key study characteristics of the identified studies were extracted....”

4 – Was any consideration taken to separate patient vs non-patient samples or were both included in the review? Can these effects be combined meaningfully?

Minor Essential Revisions

1 – There is an extra “)” ending the first sentence of the methods section of the abstract.

2 – the word ‘inverse’ should be included in the first sentence on page 5: “Although research has indicated an ______ association between physical activity and anxiety may exist.”

3 – Two of the symbols appeared as empty boxes in the ‘risk of bias and methodological quality’ section. Please insert the appropriate symbol.

Discretionary Revisions

1 – I’m not sure if this would add any relevant literature, but it may be worth including “anxiolytic” into the search terms?

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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