Reviewer’s report

Title: INCIDENCE AND RISK FACTORS OF EXERCISE-RELATED KNEE DISORDERS IN YOUNG ADULT MEN

Version: 0 Date: 02 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Fereydoun Davatchi

Reviewer’s report:

Dear authors, many thanks for this very interesting work. However, the work needs more new calculations.

1- Page 6, Methods, Line 89: The authors write that the study population was 5 groups of 1000, with the birth year 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, and 1989. Why these particular birth years were selected? The authors explain later that people entering the military service did not have the same age, so by selecting a particular age year will not ensure to have similar ages in each group.

2- Page 7, Methods, Line 109-110: The authors write, "….enabling them to march or ski a distance of 15 km on each of 2 consecutive days,….". What is the number of days between these two consecutive days of 15 kilometers to march or ski?

3- Page 9, Results, Line 179-183: What was the total number of participants, for those years of the birth date that the random selection gave those figures. The question that a reader may ask is: having the data ready, why the authors did not take all the participants instead of a random selection of 5000 participants to end finally to 4029 conscripts?

4- Page 10, Results, Line 187-188: Here the study population is said to be 4327, while on page 9 it was precise that the number selected for the study was 4029.

5- Page 10, Results, Line 190: The authors send the reader to Table 1: The total of those participating in the study is 4020 on table 1, while it was announced to be 4029 on page 9 and line number 183.

6- Page 9-10, Results, Line 179-205: The authors have to give the different diagnosis of the knee pain of their conscripts (Number, percentage, 95% confidence interval).

7- Page 10, Results, Line 199: The authors talk about "smoking habit". They have to be more precise. Answering yes to smoking habit does not mean how much cigarettes a person smokes a day. It may go from 1 to more than 40. Do the authors pretend that smoking 1 cigarette a day is the same as 40 cigarettes a day coming to the knee pain? They have to define a few numbers of classes and compare them together.
8- Page 10, Results, Line 179-183: The authors have to give the separated data of the birth year 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, and 1989. Otherwise, what was the utility to take those exact birth dates, and then randomize in each group what number of subjects to select?

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

No

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.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal.

Do you want to get recognition for reviewing this manuscript? Add a record of this review to Publons to track and showcase your reviewing expertise across the world's journals. Signing up is quick, easy and free!

Yes