Reviewer’s report

Title: Knee Pain and Related Health in the Community Study (KPIC): a cohort study protocol

Version: 1 Date: 07 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Pim Luijsterburg

Reviewer's report:

2017-07-07

Thank you for the opportunity to review this study protocol with an topic of my interest. Please find below my comments:

- Page 7, line 27: Patients will be included of 40 years and over. However, at the ClinicalTrials.gov registration age 40-80 years is stated.

- Page 7, line 36: "Eligibility will be decided by the health professionals in each general practice" The design of this study is called a "general population cohort study". However, it seems that "eligibility will be decided by the health professionals in each general practice". Will they monitor who will not be invited to participate the study and inform regarding differences with the invited persons (such as age, gender)? Who precisely is selecting eligible participants in the records of the general practitioner?

- Page 20, line 17 and 41: What are the confounding factors?

- Page 20, line 36: Indeed cases and controls will not be fully matched. It is not clear if this was taken into account in the sample size calculation.

- Page 23, line 10: I am not sure if this cohort will represent the general population due to the eligibility selection of multiple health professionals.

- Page 24, line 2 (and figure 1): Here is stated n=400. In the ClinicalTrials.gov registration this is 450?

General: In the ClinicalTrials.gov registration is stated that study completion will be September 2017. Does this mean that the period of recruiting participants was a couple of years ago, or is it still ongoing? Publishing a study protocol should be before or during recruiting the targeted study population I suppose.

Kind regards,

Pim Luijsterburg
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

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