Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence and incidence of musculoskeletal extremity complaints in children and adolescents. A systematic review

Version: 1 Date: 27 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Helen French

Reviewer's report:

Thank you to the authors for making those revisions- the paper reads significantly better as a result. There are still a few outstanding minor issues which should be addressed before acceptance of this paper as I outline below.

Abstract- state that meta-analysis was not possible due to study heterogeneity. There are no quantitative results which I understand is down to the variation in populations, ages and time points used but could the overall prevalence/incidence estimates be provided in the abstract.

Background

Page 3, line 55: change 'unspecific' to 'non-specific'

Methods

Page 3, line 70 change 'like' to 'of' before 'musculoskeletal extremity'

Page 3, line 74 change 'In example' to 'For example'

Page 5, line 22 unclear what you mean by 'our results were unrelated'... unrelated to what?

Page 5, line 26, correct spelling of full-filled to fulfilled

Page 6, line 136 change 'would be' to 'was'

Analyses

Page 6, line 160 add the word 'a' between 'as' and 'series'
Results

Page 7, line 184-85. State explicitly here that the final number of included studies was 22.

Page 9, line 199-200. merge the two sentences 'Of the 19.....' and 'Four with...'

Page 9, line 201 change 'data was' to 'data were'

Page 9, line 204 reword 'as different as' to 'such as '

Page 9, line 212 delete 'consequently'

Page 10, line 223 not sure what you mean by 20% to 280%

In the results sections, where you are describing the results for different population, please direct the reader to which table you are referring to.

Table 5: Are the ratios the correct way around in the final column for traumatic:non-traumatic. They appear to be the opposite to the figures in the traumatic and non-traumatic columns

Page 12, lines 2151-256 formatting error with text 'general population studies' - is this a table legend? Again refer to which table in the next section on clinical population studies.

Discussion

Page 13, line 294 add the study reference 'based on one study'

Page 14, lines 324-326- merge sentences 'The included 22...' and 'And this prevented'

Page 15, line 347 move the word 'also to between 'complaint' and 'needs'

Page 15, line 352 change 'in the rest' to 'in the remaining studies'

Page 15, line 354-355 Reword 'During the work with this review' to 'It became apparent during this review.....'

Page 15, line 356 clarify what you recommend to standardise reporting of

Conclusion

Page 16, line 373 change 'large variety in the studies' to 'study heterogeneity'

Table 2, ensure you explain all abbreviations eg ICD-10 and ICPC code fully in the legend.
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?
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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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