Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors associated with the prevalence of back pain and work absence in shipyard workers

Version: 1 Date: 06 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Prawit Janwantanakul

Reviewer’s report:

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1. The study aimed to identify difficulties experienced by shipyard workers due to orthopedic or musculoskeletal disorders. This objective does not completely reflect in the title "The relationship between back pain and work absence in shipyard workers". How about "Factors associated with the prevalence of back pain and work absence due to back pain in shipyard workers"?

2. The authors investigated the prevalence of back, which included both lower and/or upper back. Thus, the authors should avoid using the word 'low back pain' for their results.

3. The abstract is quite lengthy. There is no information regarding statistics used and the results should be described based on statistical analysis, rather than simple description of the findings.

4. Information about mean age of participants under subheading 'subject' should be moved to the results section.

5. The words 'incidence' and 'prevalence' are different. Please assure that the word 'incidence' has not been used inappropriately, e.g. Page 7 Line 23.

6. The title of Table 3 (i.e. the relationship between back pain and absence from work—lifestyle-related factors) does not reflect information presented in the table (i.e. factors associated with the prevalence of back pain and work absence due to back pain in shipyard workers). This comment also applies to Table 4-5.

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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