Reviewer's report

Title: MULTISITE MUSCULOSKELETAL PAIN IN MIGRANTS FROM THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT TO THE UK: A CROSS-SECTIONAL SURVEY

Version: 1 Date: 28 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Subas Neupane

Reviewer's report:

This is somewhat interesting manuscript that looked at the prevalence of multisite musculoskeletal pain among certain group of workers at the UK and India and those migrated to the UK from the Indian subcontinent. Author utilized data from a cross-sectional survey conducted among 814 participants. The authors found large differences in the prevalence of pain at multiple sites. In general the manuscript is nicely written. I have only few concerns which I hope could be helpful to improve the manuscript further.

The second part of the study aim, 'whether the change in multisite pain is apparent in the first generation migrants, and by what age it becomes manifest' is not very clear to me. I don't really convinced whether this aim is realized in their analysis. I can see that the authors have conducted a subsidiary analysis restricting the participants aged <35 years but it does not answer their research question presented above.

There is a lot of earlier literature on multisite musculoskeletal pain on its prevalence and the associated factors both from the industrial and general population, however the author has covered very little in the background. At least some important and relevant studies should be presented in the background.

In the methods, the authors should describe how musculoskeletal pain was measured in their survey?

Also, it is unclear whether the survey in India and in the UK was conducted at the same time or different time of the year? The authors should also describe clearly how they measured/defined the first generation migrants from the Indian subcontinent to the UK.

Response to musculoskeletal pain is somewhat influenced by their culture and social environment. I agree with the explanation provided by the authors in the first sentence of the last paragraph of the discussion section about the awareness of musculoskeletal pain response to it. But I wonder, the prevalence of musculoskeletal pain in other low and middle income countries (LMICs) including India itself is high as shown in recent studies. I suggest that at least some
comparison with the findings from other studies from India/other LMICs, and also the findings from ethnic minority studies should be compared and discussed briefly.

**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.

No

**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:

Acceptable
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