Reviewer’s report

Title: Diagnosis and management of lumbar spinal stenosis in primary care in France: a survey of general practitioners

Version: 0 Date: 24 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Clemens Weber

Reviewer's report:

Dear Authors,

This is an interesting study of the knowledge of diagnosis and management of LSS among French GPs. Many of these patients are primarily seen by GPs and therefore to study their knowledge about this condition is of high interest. The results showed that many GPs in France are lacking proper knowledge of some important facts about LSS. This may delay proper diagnosis and appropriate treatment for these patients. Results from this study can be used to improve the continuous medical education of GPs regarding degenerative spinal conditions, which are a huge health care issue.

However, I have a few comments on this manuscript:

The introduction/background is well written and leads the reader to the topic of this study.
The methods section describes the study design, the participants and recruitment, the questionnaire, statistics and ethics.

- the authors chose to include 330 French GPs out of 88137 registered in France, why only 330?
- the recruitment process could be described shorter and more clearly, it is a little bit confusing.
- the questionnaire is shortly described but could be shown as a figure for example.
- Statistical methods should be more described.

The results section describes the participants, diagnosis and treatment.

- Unfortunately, the response rate was very low (27%), in fact only 90 GPs answered representing only 1 promille of French GPs. The numbers are also described in a confusing way.
- Some of the results are presented in tables that could be simplified or shown as figures for better understanding.

The discussion is well written, includes some of the study limitations and leads the reader to the conclusions.

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.

Unable to assess

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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