Reviewer’s report

Title: Remarkable increase of musculoskeletal disorders among soldiers preparing for international missions – Comparison between 2002 and 2012

Version: 0 Date: 05 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Charlotte Beaudart

Reviewer's report:

1/ Page 3, line 72, please move the "(MSD)" just after "musculoskeletal disorders".

2/ The chronology of the study is unclear. A previous study about this topic was performed in 2002 and authors decided to perform the same in 2012 and compare results between cohorts? Is that right? Why did the authors decided to publish their work 7 years later? The chronology of this study should be explained more deeply.

3/ It is not clear how the protocol with questions has been developed. What is the methodology used behind this? It does not appear that authors used validated questionnaire in order to collect their data. Same question for questions that concerned perceived self-rated health. There are validated questionnaires available in the literature to measure this. How can authors be sure that the questions they used are valid to measure perceived health?

4/ Did the authors checked for normal distribution of their variables prior running statistics? It is a necessary step before using parametric or non-parametric statistics.

5/ Please clarify the logistic regression use in table 3. Is the initial model an univariate analyse and the final model a multivariate one?

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:

Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests**
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license ([http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal