Reviewer’s report

Title: Health, work and demographic factors associated with a lower risk of work disability and unemployment in employees with lower back, neck and shoulder pain

Version: 0 Date: 03 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Julie Agel

Reviewer's report:

Please explain why the data collected in 2013 is just being presented now in 2019.

Please clarify your sample - line 1 page 6 says 25,496 - lines 50 say 635 x 2 = 1270 - abstract says 5,556 and Figure 1 does not clear this up for me

Please clarify what control means in the section on job demands.

What is the time period that the survey covers - if it was administered over 2 years which seems a long time to keep a survey open - I am confused as to why recall bias is not a concern (line 42 page 13) when the questions appear to ask for recall over 6 months

Can you please provide the actual questions asked to create your categories of NSP and LBP.

Please clarify the differences between your responders and non-responders - in particular the sex category.

Please clarify if the point of your work is to focus on twins and their impact on pain or if that is just a convenient sample and you are interested in the global population.

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 recommend additional statistical review

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

**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/). 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