Reviewer’s report

Title: Sauna bathing is associated with reduced cardiovascular mortality and improves risk prediction in men and women. A prospective cohort study

Version: 1 Date: 05 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Joel Trinity

Reviewer's report:

The authors have addressed all concerns from the initial review and the manuscript has been improved based on the revisions.

I have only a few minor comments:

1) Page 8 lines 226-227: Consider rewording this sentence to improve clarity.

2) Page 10 lines 294-297: The explanation that long-term sauna use may be beneficial by reducing high blood pressure does not appear to be supported by the findings of the current study. All groups, independent of sauna frequency and duration, had similar rates of hypertension (41-43%) and similar systolic and diastolic blood pressures.

3) Page 11 lines 313-314: Technically the statement that "increasing the frequency of sauna sessions per week is associated with a decrease in risk of fatal CVD" is not correct as this implies a longitudinal study design where sauna frequency was altered and risk of CVD was assessed. Should be stated that a history of more frequent sauna use is associated with a decrease in risk of fatal CVD. The authors provide no evidence that changing sauna use in a given individual is beneficial.

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.

Not applicable
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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