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: 10 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Oliver Gibson

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the response to my initial comments on your manuscript.

The amendments to the paper based on my own, and the well considered input of the other reviewers has facilitated another interesting analysis from your group.

I am largely satisfied by your responses and appreciate that this is your paper and therefore you are free to amend as you see fit, however I believe that your offer to include further discussion relating to the following review comment of mine is one that is still pertinent (original review comment below).

"Results - It is interesting that more frequent Sauna use is related to higher BMI, alcohol intake and energy intake. Is it the case that access to Sauna, and/or use is limited to only a specific cohort? i.e. wealthy? Does this impact upon their ability to seek medical care or other influences on health more potent than Sauna?"

Given that a growing body of evidence is forming relating to the benefits of passive heating (incl Sauna) as a therapeutic intervention, there is now a clear need to determine whether the efficacy of such an intervention extends to all cohorts. I believe within this analysis you have the data to begin to answer this challenging but important question, so please consider adding further data (if available and of sufficient quality) and further discussion on this point. It would add greater impact if this could be framed both in Scandinavia, and elsewhere in the developed world where the use of Sauna may be less.

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?
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Yes

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I recommend additional statistical review

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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