Reviewer’s report

Title: Attitudes and Behavior related to Performance-Enhancing Substance Use among Elite Saudi Football Players

Version: 1 Date: 01 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Katharina Diehl

Reviewer's report:

Dear author,
Dear editors,
I would like to thank you for the opportunity to review the above-named manuscript. My review is based on the revised manuscript and two letters addressing a previous version of this manuscript. The manuscript is very interesting and focuses on results from a population, which is understudied up to now. However, I have some major comments.

* As previous reviewers also pointed out, there is still missing a clear definition of PES and its delineation towards „doping”.

* What remains unclear after reading the abstract and the methods section is, whether the participants had to be Saudi Arabiact Citizens or whether they had to play for a Saudi Arabian team/sports club.

* In addition, a clearer definition of „elite football player" is needed.

* The random sample selection technique remains unclear. If 408 elite athletes out of 16,779 elite football players participated, the response rate cannot be 68%.

* In the methods section the author uses the term „banned PES". Again a clear definition is needed.

* In the results section it is unclear whether a three or a four factor solution was chosen. Please report also the factor loadings of the individual items.

* I agree with former reviewer 1 that the discussion mainly consists of „results". A real scientific discussion is still missing.

From my point of view, the paper needs more additional work. However, it is an important study in an understudied population. Therefore, I would like to encourage the author to revise the manuscript.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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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