Reviewer’s report

Title: Associations between sport participation and knee symptoms: a cross-sectional study involving 3,053 undergraduate students

Version: 0 Date: 15 Dec 2019

Reviewer: Ronaldo Briani

Reviewer's report:

This study investigated the association between sports participation and knee injuries in a population of undergraduate students. Although this is an interesting topic, some major issues limit the interest in recommending this manuscript for publication in its current form.

In terms of the introduction, the rationale could be better explored. Why exactly looking at the undergraduate population is important? Why would it differ from/add to previous research in adolescents and adults?

The methods are poorly described which hampers the understanding and replication of the study. Specifically:

Page 4, lines 11-14: "Depending on the participants' responses, the number of questions asked in the interactive survey varied". How exactly?

Page 7, line 6: The authors obtained the "average hours of participation in each sport per week", but never specified which period this refers to. Is the average per week in the last week? month? Year? Lifetime?

Page 7, line 19; Page 8, line 1: "Univariate analyses, through simple logistic regressions, were used to compare the characteristics between respondents with and without knee pain". Important information regarding these groups are missing: Could/Did the participants with knee pain have pain in other regions? Could/Did the participants without knee pain have pain in other regions? This should be thoroughly described as you could be doing several different comparisons (i.e., knee pain vs without knee pain (but with neck pain, lower back pain, and so on…; knee pain + neck pain… vs without knee pain). These would influence the interpretation of the findings.

Page 8, line 14: How the authors determined a "regular" participation in sport? How much an undergraduate student needed to do to be consider as a regular practitioner of that sport? This should have been defined as it influences how you determined the number of sports participation and your results.

Page 9, lines 10-11: Those percentages do not add up to 100%. Please, check.

Please, revise the manuscript for grammatical errors. For instance:

Page 8, line 7: Should be "as predictors".

Page 8, line 7: Should be "was not entered".
Lastly, as it current is, the manuscript does not contribute significantly to the literature. It basically replicates findings in a "different population", which the authors did not successfully explained why is important to look at. I suggest to the authors to work on the strengths of the study/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.

No

**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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