Reviewer’s report

Title: The impact of musculoskeletal injuries sustained in road traffic crashes on work-related outcomes: protocol for a systematic review.

Version: 0 Date: 10 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Narothama Aeddula

Reviewer's report:

The authors have proposed a protocol for a systematic review of the impact of musculoskeletal injuries sustained in road traffic crashes on work-related outcomes and aims to go through observational studies in the adult population without neurological injuries published in English literature. Authors objective is to increase the knowledge on the work-related outcomes with future planned interventions and influence the policy and legislation. It is a very important study area of public health, as tens of millions of people are injured or disabled every year according to WHO.

Authors did an excellent job, and overall the protocol is well thought out and written, to address an important problem in the societies across the globe.

Minor points in the article which need clarification include, the following,

1. It might benefit from the study if the authors define the pediatric population. Having a certain age limit in the study populations reduces the confusion.

2. In the Background section, on, line 76, authors might need to quote a different citation as WHS (workplace health and safety) website definition of the musculoskeletal disorders (MSD) in the manuscript (reference 9), doesn't include whiplash associated disorder (WAD).

Also, the paragraph is confusing as it discussed the MSD and WAD where there is a fund of evidence and literature available and failed to mention the lack of literature in musculoskeletal injuries.

3. In the Search methods: Authors mentioned, not including the non-English literature studies given lack of funds. But no comment is made on the search for grey English literature. Also comment on efforts to obtain studies from professional societies, conferences or trial registries is not made.

Under Search method for identification of studies, on line 181, authors included the search strategy for the PubMed with search strings. Authors should be aware that some of the observational studies reported as a 'letters to the editor,' and every effort should be made to include them in the review (1).
5. In the Conclusion section: Authors can consider rewriting line 278, to 'This systematic review will 'help' inform future interventions to promote a return to work following crash related musculoskeletal injury.' Also, need to further elaborate on how this review will help to understand when and whom certain interventions are appropriate.

6. On line 306-311, Authors should further describe the roles (if any) of the sponsor in protocol review, conduct, data analysis & interpretation, and dissemination of the final report.

References:


Level of interest
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