

Reviewer's report

Title: Low-frequency vibratory exercise reduces the risk of bone fracture more than walking: a randomized controlled trial [ISRCTN76235671]

Version: 6 **Date:** 13 September 2006

Reviewer: Ilkka Vuori

Reviewer's report:

General: The topic of this study is relevant and timely from scientific and practical point of view. The study design is appropriate, although a control group is lacking. The criteria for selection of the subjects are appropriate and clearly stated. The sample size is small as also pointed out by the authors. The methods are commonly used in both research and practice and generally reliable. The exposures (vibration exercise and walking) are adequately described and relevant regarding potential effectiveness, feasibility, and safety on the basis of current knowledge. The results are adequately presented. The discussion is generally relevant. The Conclusions and Abstract correspond to the findings.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct):

* Background: reference 4 is not appropriate and reference 5 is too old to be cited in the presented connection. Consider changing the expression "did not have positive effect" in the last sentence, e.g. "did not increase significantly ---".

* Subjects and study design: did you make power calculations regarding the statistical power? In Figure 1, it may not be completely clear if only those subjects that were lost to follow-up were excluded from the analysis of results and those with low attendance and lack of interest were included. It would be good to comment, why the subjects in the Walking group had at least trend of lower BMI and BMD and weaker balance at the baseline.

* Methods: reliability indicator of the BMD and balance measurements should be reported.

* English language: generally rather good but needs checking by an expert.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore):

*Results: I would like to see the subjects described first Tables 1 and 2 in the same paragraph). What might have been the reason for greater weight loss in the WBV group?

Discussion: Page 9, end of last paragraph: I think the statement " -- seems to be crucial --" is too strong in relation to the evidence. Page 9, last sentence: I am not sure the message is completely clear, should it be " --- causing a continuous need to keep balance of hips. "?

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.