Reviewer’s report

Title: Physical Examination Findings and Their Relationship with Performance-based Function in Adults with Knee Osteoarthritis

Version: 0 Date: 10 Jun 2016

Reviewer: Dawid Baczkowicz

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this interesting paper entitled Physical Examination Findings and Their Relationship with Performance-based Function in Adults with Knee Osteoarthritis by Maura D Iversen et al. Overall, the study does shed some new light on the problem and can be of value to the readership of BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders journal. This study provides a detailed clinical description of adults with symptomatic knee joint osteoarthritis and aims to determine the relative contribution of PE results primarily on performance-based function, adjusting for age and gender. Moreover, the authors aimed to examine the contribution of PE findings on self-reported function analyzed by WOMAC.

1. TITLE
Satisfactory and appropriate

2. ABSTRACT
Well written, relevant, and informative

3. INTRODUCTION
Well written, relevant, and informative. However, I think that the statement reduced joint motion (page #4 line #23) should be elaborated, due to the fact, that OA is manifested as a deterioration in both quantitative (range of motion) and qualitative (arthrokinematic motion quality) aspects of joint motion [Bączkowicz D, Majorczyk E. Joint motion quality in vibroacoustic signal analysis for patients with patellofemoral joint disorders. BMC Musculoskelet Disord. 2014 Dec 12;15:426. doi: 10.1186/1471-2474-15-426].

4. METHODS
Well written and informative, but you mentioned that All participants were examined by one of three physical therapists. Also, was ICC data conducted to ensure inter/intrarater correlation? If not, could this have been a limitation to your study?

5. RESULTS
Informative and well-written. However, the anthropometric characteristics of patients should be presented in the material and methods section.

6. DISCUSSION
Well written, relevant, and informative.

7. CONCLUSIONS
Satisfactory and appropriate

9. TABLES
Tables 1-6 were each clear, well organized and presented. However, the titles of Table 5 and 6 should be presented above the table (not inside).

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?
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:

Acceptable
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