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Lower Extremity Injuries in Basketball Players: A Systematic Review

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E d i t o r

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R e v i e w e r s

Reviewer 1: Marcelo Haiachi¹
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Reviewer 2: Morteza Taheri²
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1. Round 1

1.1 Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence “This discipline is widely practiced worldwide and offers substantial benefits for physical fitness...” is descriptive but does not provide quantitative evidence of basketball participation prevalence. Please include global participation statistics (e.g., number of players worldwide, professional vs recreational participation rates) to strengthen the epidemiological significance and public health relevance of the topic.

The paragraph stating “Despite the multiple benefits associated with playing basketball, studies have also documented the risks involved...” introduces injury risk appropriately but lacks specificity regarding injury burden magnitude. Consider adding quantified risk estimates or comparative injury risks relative to other team sports (e.g., soccer, volleyball) to contextualize basketball-specific injury vulnerability.

The search strategy includes examples such as (“basketball” AND “injuries”), but does not specify complete Boolean search strings, use of MeSH terms, truncation operators, or database-specific syntax. Please include the full reproducible search strategy in an appendix to ensure transparency and replicability.

The authors state that inclusion criteria required studies to be “available through open access.” This introduces potential selection bias, as high-quality epidemiological studies published in subscription journals may have been excluded. Please justify this restriction and discuss its implications for completeness of evidence synthesis.

The manuscript states that the JBI checklist was used and studies were classified as low, moderate, or high quality. However, no threshold criteria (e.g., percentage of checklist items fulfilled) are described. Please provide explicit scoring criteria used for classification to ensure methodological transparency.

Although two reviewers independently conducted data extraction and appraisal, no inter-rater agreement statistics (e.g., Cohen’s kappa coefficient) are reported. Please include inter-rater reliability measures to strengthen methodological rigor.

Author revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

1.2 Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The sentence “Considering that basketball demands a high level of cognitive processing and mental control... injuries commonly occur...” suggests a causal relationship between cognitive demands and injury risk but does not explain the mechanism. Please clarify whether the cognitive load contributes to biomechanical errors, decision-making latency, or situational awareness deficits, and support this statement with specific neurocognitive or sports injury literature.

The statement “Adámez (12) concluded that male basketball players present a higher incidence of knee and ankle injuries than female athletes...” conflicts with later statements in the manuscript indicating higher prevalence among female athletes. Please reconcile these findings by discussing sex-specific biomechanical, hormonal, neuromuscular, or exposure-related differences and explain the discrepancy between cited studies.

The authors state: “there remains a gap in studies examining the relationship between injury occurrence and level of basketball participation...”. This research gap is appropriate but insufficiently elaborated. Please specify whether the gap pertains to prospective cohort data, standardized injury definitions, recreational populations, pediatric populations, or longitudinal exposure-adjusted injury rates.

The authors state that PRISMA 2020 guidelines were followed; however, there is no mention of PROSPERO registration. Please clarify whether the review protocol was prospectively registered. If not, provide justification and acknowledge potential risks of reporting bias associated with unregistered systematic reviews.

Author revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.