

Review of: "Arthritis in East Africa: An Observational Study"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Commendations to the authors for the excellent and important work they are doing – both in practice and in publishing their findings.

Overall, a well-written, well-presented paper with strengths and limitations well documented.

I have just a few comments:

Please spell out abbreviations the first time they are used.

While it is interesting that “it appears that modern humans evolved about 300,000 years ago .. rift valley was their ancestral home”, it is not really pertinent to the study at hand.

I recommend moving the citations 25-27 to after the clause “EULAR criteria for inflammatory joint disease (IJD)” as they pertain to diagnostic methods and not the actual findings.

Current thinking is loath to attribute factors like the high prevalence of degenerative disease in the knee and low prevalence of osteoarthritis of the hip to genetic factors but rather to emphasize environmental factors – can you perhaps address this issue?