Reviewer's report

Title: In what extent anemia coexists with cognitive impairment in elderly: a cross-sectional study in Greece

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Reviewer: Prof E Trell

Level of interest: A paper of considerable general medical or scientific interest

Advice on publication: Accept without revision

(I had completed some lines in my original report, and then it suddenly disappeared - probably I touched the keyboard in some counterproductive way. Anyhow, here I go again:)

Somewhat familiar with the area I read the paper with great interest. Greece of course is the cradle of Western Medicine and in many ways remains a kind of archetypal reference of good life and well-being. Although, in relative terms, this may largely be so, too, it may mask the prevalence of ill-health and disease and renders epidemiological studies, particularly in the primary care sector, extra warranted both as such and comparatively.

There are three stunning findings of the report. First, that cognitive impairment in the elderly is so common also in Arcadia. Second, that it showed correlations, qualified in a way that I have otherwise not seen matched in the literature, with male gender, anemia and B12 deficiency. Thirdly, and somewhat unaccounted for in the analysis, the astonishingly high rate of B12 deficiency per se. This deserves to be further
expanded, maybe in a forthcoming article.

The standard of the clinical as well as the statistical investigation and presentation is excellent, and I also think that the language flows both economical and enjoyable. Perhaps there are a few passages where the word order is a bit inverted, e.g. "During the past few years this paper reports the association between...", but these are minor remarks that might reflect own linguistic background.

On the whole, an excellent and timely paper, which I gladly recommend for publication in your already renowned universal forum.

**Competing interests:**

None declared.