Reviewer's report

Title: Age, gender and disability predict future disability in the elderly: the Rotterdam Study

Version: 1 Date: 4 September 2010

Reviewer: Tatsuro Ishizaki

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Major Compulsory Revisions
1. The results shown in this paper may be flawed by selection bias, because 37% of subjects (n = 2,956) who participated in the baseline survey were excluded in the multivariate analyses due to having missing data. The authors should explain any effect of the selection bias on the results in this paper.

2. The authors should describe information on causes for disability (e.g., stroke, osteoarthritis, chronic heart failure, dementia, etc.). Without this information, it is difficult for readers to interpret the results appeared in the paper.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. In Table 2, the authors would describe what kind of statistical model they used and what the reference category in the model was.

Discretionary Revisions
1. Because the authors mentioned about improvement in disability during the follow-up period in their paper, they would show a table that depicted transitions in functional status between the baseline survey and the follow-up survey.

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.