Reviewer's report

Title: Informant-Reported Cognitive Symptoms That Predict Amnestic Mild Cognitive Impairment

Version: 1 Date: 6 June 2011

Reviewer: Alessandro Iavarone

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Manuscript entitled “Informant-Reported Cognitive Symptoms That Predict Amnestic Mild Cognitive Impairment”

The manuscript reports data from an ongoing validation study of the Alzheimer’s questionnaire.

The point by point assessment of the manuscript is summarized as follows:

1. The question posed by the authors is well defined.

2. The methods are appropriate but not clearly defined; in particular (see Method – Study Sample) it should be needed to better describe the neuropsychological protocol adopted to diagnose aMCI. Furthermore, I have some concerns about the criteria to define CN participants. In fact, the absence of cognitively-based limitation of activities of daily living is enough to exclude dementia, not to rule out subjects with aMCI or subjective cognitive complaints. Finally, it should be mentioned the package supporting statistical analysis.

3. The data are sound. However, describing in Results the same items always reported in Table 3 seems little redundant.

4. I believe the manuscript adheres to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition (within the limits of an ongoing validation).

5. The discussion and conclusions are well balanced and adequately support the data.

6. The limitations of the work are clearly stated.

7. The Authors probably clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, although not all studies in the field are reported in References. However, I believe this beyond the aims of a study protocol.

8. The title and abstract accurately convey what has been found.

9. The writing of the paper is quite acceptable.

In conclusions, the study describes data of a still-in-progress work and the length of the paper is that of a brief report. As consequence, I believe the manuscript not suitable for publication as research article, but always interesting as contribution for the “Study protocol” section of the Journal.

The points 2 and 3 in the assessment list must be intended as “Minor Essential Revision”.
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests' below