Author's response to reviews

Title: Risk factors of functional disability among community-dwelling elderly people by household in Japan: a prospective cohort study

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For possible publication in the BMC Geriatrics, we have enclosed our new manuscript entitled “Risk factors of functional disability among community-dwelling elderly people by household in Japan: a prospective cohort study”. The manuscript is 3910 words long (excluding title page and references) with 3 tables.

The trend for nuclear families is increasing in Japan. Many elderly people are being separated from both their families and their communities, because of the nuclear-family-size-trend and rapid aging of the population. Several projects including monitoring and providing preventive care for elderly living alone have been started in Japan. However, few reports are available on vulnerable household with elderly persons. The findings in our study suggest that elderly who belong to vulnerable family have an increased risk of developing a need for long-term care. These issues are likely to be common concerns in many advanced countries in the near future. Therefore we would like to submit this manuscript regarding the impact of care needs depending on living arrangements of community dwelling elderly people to your journal as it should be of value to those planning or providing care for the elderly.

I will be serving as the corresponding author for this manuscript. All of the authors have agreed to the byline order and to submission of the manuscript in this form and have contributed significantly to research involved. I confirm it is not under consideration by any other journal and that
the authors have no conflicts of interest in financial and personal matters.

This study was implemented as part of the local government’s health service projects, and we received approval from the Ethics Committee Review Board of Fukushima Medical University (No. 1061). An ethical consideration of this research conformed to the provisions of the Declaration of Helsinki. All participants gave informed consent for the research, and that their anonymity was preserved.

Thank you for considering the paper for publication in BMC Geriatrics.

Yours sincerely,

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