Reviewer's report

Title: Haemoglobin, anaemia, dementia and cognitive decline in the elderly, a systematic review

Version: 1 Date: 29 February 2008

Reviewer: Anna R Atti

Reviewer's report:

The authors review the evidence for a relationship between haemoglobin concentration and cognitive decline/dementia in elderly. The question is well defined and the issue is of interest given the high prevalence of anaemia and cognitive deficits at older ages.

Methods seems to be appropriate although the little number of study concerning this issue deserve an explanation either in the methods section or in the discussion. Such limitations should be stated more clearly.

The manuscript adheres to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?

6.

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?

9. Is the writing acceptable?

- Major Compulsory Revisions

I suggest you to update your research since it was based on the period 1996-2006. It's likely that a few more papers have been published in the last two years, however, it would give a more comprehensive review of the literature.

- Minor Essential Revisions

- Please, CHECK REFERENCES (number 1 is missing from the text!)

- On page 1, the last sentence is not clear enough to a non English mother tongue.

- The group at highest risk from low or high haemoglobin levels may well be the elderly as anemia is common as are other co-morbidities is not clear enough to a non English mother tongue.

- On page 3 gm/dL is a non-sense either use mg/dL or g/L.
- Discretionary Revisions

NONE

- Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

- An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

- Needs some language corrections before being published

- No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.