Reviewer's report

Title: Late onset depression after stroke could be related to small vessel disease: Mood After Stroke: a cross-sectional case control study.

Version: 3 Date: 28 September 2010

Reviewer: Lara Caeiro

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The text is better, however I still have some suggestions:

1. Review conclusions on the abstract: that is, what are "factors associated with cerebral small vessel diseases? You included data of logistic regression which excluded hyperhomocysteinaemia as predictor of post-stroke depression, because "homocysteine levels were not included in the basic model as they data were not available for all patients.". you should clarify this or exclude data in the abstract.

2. Why include the criteria of depression and psychosis episodes in the text? (http://www.biomedcentral.com/media/man/1565586565322992/msd/SUPPL/1) There is no absolute need for it. The explanation of what type of criteria was used is enough (which was missing in the first review).

3. Once the depression criteria are described on the "methods" it will not be necessary to describe it in the results.

4. page 9 put a comma between the two words (Barthel ADL score).

5. page 7: The reference that you put in "MADRS scores >17" is number 16?... Please update references. in subsequent pages as well.

6. Statistic analysis for case-control studies would be better Mantel and Haeszel's Statistics.

7. page 16, 2nd paragraph: There was a mild (and not strong) association between overall WMC and serum.. Rho value is mild not even moderate! There is no causality in a correlation between WMC and MMSE: there are lots of papers, recent ones, reporting this.

8. You may tell that CT scans at that time (?) was an indicator of post-stroke depression at ?? months.

9. You may not say that MMSE results are due to depression. What is depression is due to MMSE low scores? At the end, they are mutually influenced one by the other.