**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Health-related quality of life in epilepsy adults: the effect of age-related factors in a multicentric Italian study

**Version:** 3  **Date:** 20 May 2010

**Reviewer:** mike kerr

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All the following are minor comment:

BIOMED REVIEW

This is an interesting secondary analysis of a large data set exploring QOL in people with epilepsy

The authors make a good case for their project in the introduction, rightly identifying the need to explore age related impacts on QOL

I feel further clarification of the points below may improve this already good paper

1. I think the title could reflect better the paper and could say age, age of onset and duration of epilepsy

2. The introduction: firstly I believe the nature of the sample should be recognised the reader should be aware this is a non epidemiological convenience sample of refractory? Or at least certainly not new onset epilepsy. Secondly, the results are a little hard to understand- it would be help for the paper to say exactly what it found

3. In the methods- whilst I acknowledge the sample is described elsewhere –it is essentially impossible to judge the paper without more information. In particular number of drugs taken current seizure frequency etc that may help the reader visualise the sample and thus understand better the QOL information

4. I am not a statistician so could only review this aspect from a point of view of its clarity and understandability- I felt this was good

5. The results section is interesting though I was a little confused about when age was a positive factor- I wonder if there is any diagrammatic way of representing these results to add to clarity?

6. The discussion: this is clear and excellent- in fact it is a more clear description of the very small effect of age on QOL then the abstract- again the abstract should state more clearly that ageing has a small impact with a greater influence of other age related factors

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
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