Reviewer's report

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

Version: 4 Date: 17 August 2010

Reviewer: Henry Potts

Reviewer's report:

I have focused on the statistical aspects of this paper. I don't know the epilepsy field well, so I can't comment on the originality of the work. (However, the review system requires me to select options for Level of interest and Quality of written English.)

As far as the statistics is involved, I have no complaints. The analyses performed are appropriate and described well. The attention to detail around the regression analyses is commendable. While I understand Dr Besag's concerns in his review about comprehensibility to a general readership, with my statistical hat on, I found the statistical detail useful and important. In fact, I prefer the original wording around the authors' use of a Box-Cox transformation to the abbreviated version in the current draft.

I suggest two discretionary revisions.

1. The use of three decimal places for the results seems unnecessary. Two would suffice.

2. I would like to see more detail on the analyses adjusting for other confounders. Details are given for the analyses using categorical age-related variables, but I would like to see the analyses using the continuous age-related variables.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests