Reviewer's report

Title: Donepezil can prolong life expectancy in Alzheimer's disease: A retrospective analysis in the Tajiri Project.

Version: 2  Date: 19 March 2014

Reviewer: Márcia Lorena Chaves

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. The evaluation of a drug effect is essentially dependent on how patients are ascertained to the drug or to non-drug (or placebo) groups. The more blind the selection, the better the analysis (as well as the blindness of those who receive the drug). However, observational studies can help understanding associated effects of drugs, since main bias is carefully considered. In this study, the reason to use the drug (or not use) could be attributed to many factors (health status, socio-economic status, family support, etc) that were not addressed by the study design. An analysis of such factors should be carried out (as confounders).
2. The authors presented tables with demographics of groups without statistical analysis - both table 1 (with drug and non-drug groups) and table 2 (with the combinations of nursing home/donepezil groups). Therefore, no clear information can be concluded from the tables.
3. No statistical analysis plan is presented in Methods.
4. No limitations are presented in Discussion.

Minor Essential Revisions
Labels and legends of all figures are unrecognizable.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.