Author's response to reviews

Title: Validation of multi-stage telephone-based identification of cognitive impairment and dementia

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All format changes have been incorporated as requested; including relocation of the appendix before the acknowledgements and separating Table 4 into 2 tables: Table 4 & 5 and making appropriate changes in the text.

Reviewer 1

1. We are aware that the original title of the proxy interview is called the Dementia Questionnaire (DQ). We adapted the version into a computer-assisted telephone only version and call it the TDQ for our purposes. This is noted in the Overview section, line 8. We also included 2 of the additional references noted by the reviewer as they were most germane to the purpose of our study. These include the original paper on the DQ [citation 6. Silverman et al, 1986] and also Li, et al. 1997 [citation 14]. We had previously included the Kawas reference suggested by the reviewer [previously citation 6, citation 13 in this version].

2. In section title Subjects and procedures, under 4th paragraph, line 4 we added "Postcard or" verbal permission to contact to clarify that permission was granted by either method for a total of 50.

To clarify the confusion about the numbers actually interviewed by USC and by us, we amended the sentences in the Results section first paragraph, line 1. We added "initially" between evaluations and consented. In the same paragraph, line 4, we further clarified that TDQs were conducted for the 8 "who scored below 28 on the TICSm"

Reviewer 2:

The authors are aware of multiple validation studies of the TICSm but only the few cited in the paper actually use a full neuropsychological assessment similar to the one we used in our study. We are attempting to validate the multi-stage approach, not the TICSm alone. The reference by Lines, while important, refers only to the TICSm and does not compare it to a full neurologist/neuropsychologist work-up.

Because of the very small numbers, we did not elect to break down the dementia cases into possible and probable cases (all but one were probable AD.)

Much of the other criticism revolves around the small sample size and thus is not remediable in this paper.
Sincerely,

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