Author’s response to reviews

Title: Risk factors for dementia in the epidemiological study of Mungualde County

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Reviewer's report
Title: Risk factors for dementia in the epidemiological study of Munguialde County
Version: 1 Date: 12 May 2008
Reviewer: Peter Rabins
Reviewer's report:
This is a well written and timely paper. I did not see a definition of LAMIC.
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Reviewer's report
Title: Risk factors for dementia in the epidemiological study of Munguialde County
Version: 1 Date: 22 April 2008
Reviewer: Burcu Balam Balam Yavuz
Reviewer's report:
This study examining the risk factors of Alzheimer’s disease and vascular dementia is of importance. In the early diagnosis of dementia determination of the risk factors is crucial. Although it is a well designed study with interesting results, some concerns have raised.
Abstract
1- Number of patients in AD and VD group can be added to the abstract.
Introduction.
ANSWER: We add the number of AD and VD patients.
1- There is a study of Cankurtaran et al. examining the risk factors of both AD and VD which is similar to this work (Cankurtaran, M. et al., Risk factors and type of dementia: Vascular or Alzheimer?, Archiv. Gerontol. Geriatr. (2007), doi:10.1016/j.archger.2007.06.005). I think this can be added to the introduction and its results can be compared with your manuscript and discussed in the discussion section.
ANSWER: We add this reference to the introduction and to discussion.
Methods
1- Page 3: References of the neuropsychiatric tests, namely Neuropsychiatric Inventory and seven-minute test should be added.
ANSWER: We add these references
2- Page 4: How was the diagnosis of hypertension, hyperlipidemia, diabetes mellitus, stroke, and depression made? Were they only based on the report of the patient or the carer? Were the blood pressures, plasma glucose, cholesterol levels measured; and which reference values were taken? Was the stroke evident? Was any depression scale used? These should be mentioned in the manuscript.
ANSWER: We mentioned in the text that the clinical diagnosis was made not only based on the report of carer or patient but also in "The subjects were evaluated by a
doctor using a structured interview of the subject’s medical history. The diagnoses of hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, stroke, diabetes mellitus and depression were based on the diagnoses referred by the patient or carer, a review of the clinical history and the use of specific medication”. Other population based studies have used a similar methodology (Kivipelto M et al. Helkala EL, Laakso MP, Hanninen T, Hallikainen M, Alhainen K, Soininen H, Tuomilehto J, Nissinen A: Midlife vascular risk factors and Alzheimer’s disease in later life: longitudinal, population based study. Bmj 2001, 322(7300):1447-1451) (The canadian study of health and aging. Neurology 1994; 44:2073-2080)

3- Page 4: There are only 15 VD patients. Performing multivariate analysis with this small number is not right. That is why the result of the logistic regression analysis of VD is not appropriate (OR=131). The multivariate analysis of VD should be omitted. ANSWER: We add these references

Results and Discussion
1- Results and Discussion should be independent titles and given separately. We make this change.

2- Page 5, page 7: 95%CI and p values should be added wherever OR are given: We make this change.

3- Page 5: Results of the multivariate analysis of VD should be deleted because it is not right to make this analysis with 15 patients and it is misleading. We make this change.

4- Vascular risk factors are known to be related to Alzheimer’s disease and there are many articles confirming this, as some of them are cited by the writers. However, this study did not find any relationship between vascular risk factors and AD. The possible reasons of this should be discussed by the writers. Do they think the number of patients or the cross-sectional manner of the study or something else lead to this result? This point should be discussed. ANSWER: We discuss this issue

Conclusion
1- The last sentence of the conclusion was not validated by the results of this study. To make that conclusion a longitudinal analysis is needed. This sentence should be deleted. ANSWER: We delete this sentence.

Tables
1- Table 1 and Table 3: some of the p values are given as 0.00. Do you mean <0.001? The exact value of p should be given, or if it is smaller that 0.001 it should be shown as <0.001. We make this change.

2- Table 1: Continuous variables should be given as “mean±SD”, instead of “mean (SD)”; and this should be shown in the first column, instead of (SD) it should be (mean±SD). ANSWER: We make this change.

3- Table 2: p values should be added to make the table self explanatory. ANSWER: We make this change.

4- Table 3: The data of multivariate analysis of VD should be deleted (explained
above). There is also a typing error DV should be VD. ANSWER: **We make this change.**
5- Table 4: IC should be CI. I think it is a typing error. ANSWER: **We make this change.**