Reviewer’s report

Title: Depression in the Elderly in Karachi, Pakistan: A Cross Sectional Study

Version: 4 Date: 1 April 2013

Reviewer: Carmen Garcia-Pena

Reviewer’s report:

Authors have done an excellent job answering all my concerns and I feel that the paper is now much clear and congruent. However, there are still some points that should be resolved before acceptance.

In the Introduction section, page 4, 2nd paragraph, please specify what the authors mean by “health workforce per 10,000 population is quite low”. That is, please specify the exact figure for Pakistan and the figure of the regional average.

In Methods, page 7, 3rd paragraph, I suggest to limit the explanation of sampling process to objective facts and to avoid phrases such as “experienced demographer” and “based on his research”. I do not have doubts about the qualifications of the team but these sentences are not necessary in a scientific paper. In fact, authors explain the process better but the point of how they sampled the number of 46 block it is not clear enough.

In the Study Variables section, page 9, please clarify what do you mean by Activities of Daily Living because the description corresponds more to functionality and not to physical activity. Also clarify the distinction among daily activities and instrumental activities. In fact the data collection instrument has one section for each one. Since my point of view physical activity concept applies only to one referred of “second variable”. Also, references number 38 and 39 correspond to studies of association. It would be better to cite studies of the scales used in the study (Katz, Lawton and Brody or any other authors had applied).

Finally, please check citation of all the references, some are incorrectly presented. As an example, references 38 and 39 correspond to the American Journal of Public Health and not to the AM Public Health Assoc.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests