Reviewer’s report

Title: The psychosocial difficulties in brain disorders that explain short term changes in health outcomes

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Reviewer: Lukasz Cichocki

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Some of my remarks – especially connected with clarity of language were addressed by the authors. Unfortunately still many things remain unclear for me and need further explanations. The number of procedures used exceeds that of an average medical paper and not all steps are clarified sufficiently. To make the paper more understandable more information is still required.

- First of all - what is the purpose and benefit from using specific statistical methods from SAS package, most of potential readers are not aquinted with

- Regarding the fact of big differences in measurement periods it would be nice to see not only mean and standard deviation but also quartiles for time periods for various diagnoses.

- When describing methods, in the paragraph about the severity of problems, two terms: "barriers" and "facilitators" are introduced without previous explanation what they mean and what is the purpose of their use.

- How many missing data were changed (replaced) by using SAS PROC MI? - it would be nice to see percentages in each variable; also, the need for recoding data after imputation is not presented, this fact is just stated.

- In what way results of this paper can influence economical aspects of care? (Introduction)

- In disscussion some highlightng of practical benefits of these paper will be appreciated

- Steps in data analysis before using multilevel model should be also specified in points in the order they were implemented, which would improve clarity of this quite lengthy procedure.

- In my opinion the use of „determine” (Abstract, Results) may be a little too far-fetched, as the variety within the sample and the statistical procedures used
do not seem to allow for such strong inferences.