Reviewer's report

Title: Epidemiology of dementia and Alzheimer's disease in institutionalized and non-institutionalized elderly people of Durango City, Mexico.

Version: 1 Date: 13 October 2003

Reviewer: Alex Gray

Reviewer's report:

General

Esquivel et al., conducted a cross-sectional, prospective, descriptive survey with a 2 phase screening design carried out over 2 years in order to determine the prevalences of dementia and AD in a population of institutionalized and a group of non-institutionalized elderly persons of Durango, a northern Mexican City. In addition, the authors sought to determine whether any socio-demographic characteristic of the subjects correlated with dementia or AD.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Given the nature of the study, the statistical methods seem appropriate. However, the authors need to clarify that the analysis was conducted by using logistic regression, since the statement in the statistical methodology section “Since the number of cases was too low no further statistical analysis by using logistic regression was performed” suggests that the study did not use logistic regression at all. In order to attempt to correlate socio-demographic characteristics in this study logistic regression models would provide the most information. The authors have however already noted the limitations in the possibilities for further analysis due to sample size.

Minor Compulsory Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

None

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

None

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests: