Reviewer’s report

Title: Risk Factors for Suicide in Hungary: a Case-control Study

Version: 2 Date: 7 April 2009

Reviewer: Alexander McGirr

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting study investigating representative suicides in an underinvestigated cultural setting. It confirms much of what is known about suicide in other populations and suggests that similar aetiologies are at play in Eastern Europe. The sample is appropriately sized and the authors have been forthright in their analyses and interpretations of the data.

Major compulsory revisions:

None

Minor essential revisions:

1. Table 5 of the revised manuscript makes clear that a substantial portion of cases' informants were not close family members. Moreover, the pooled cohabitating partner and first degree relative informant group suggests that there could be important differences with respect to knowledge of lifetime presence of risk factors. This does not call into question the results, but it does highlight the importance of clearly delineating who informants were and the percentage of cases whose informants were parents, siblings, cohabiting partners and what relationship describes 'other'.

2. The manuscript states that interviews with cases' informants took place within three weeks of death. For completeness of information, the authors should present the range and median time between death and interview.

3. It is somewhat misleading (in the context of a psychological autopsy study) to refer to controls reporting on themselves as 'informants'. The authors should consider more appropriately phrasing this section (Results-Recruitment).

4. It is unclear from the initial description of statistical analyses whether the same criteria for univariate model stability used in the sensitivity analyses (cell value of 5 or less) was applied to the analyses in the sample as a whole. If that is the case it should be specified, and if not consistent criteria should be applied across analyses.

Discretionary revisions:

I agree that Table 5, as presented, is not a necessary addition to the manuscript. The authors could perhaps condense this into a sentence explaining that comparisons based on informant age, sex and relationship to the deceased
revealed no significant differences in variables of interest.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.