Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Predictors of mortality among elderly people living in a south Indian urban community; a 10/66 Dementia Research Group prospective population-based cohort study

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 23 December 2009

**Reviewer:** Secundino López-Pousa

**Reviewer’s report:**

This is an interesting study reporting relevant results about the risk factors of mortality among people aged 65 and over living in a low and middle income (LMIC) country such as India. Data comes from the well known 10/66 Dementia Research Group’s (10/66 DRG).

The introduction is well written, brief, concise, and the objectives are well described. The research question is clearly defined and overall design of the study is appropriate to answer it. The methods section is clear and structured. The results and data presented allow drawing conclusions about the risk of mortality and the potential predictors. Discussion is well written and structured. The authors make an interesting examination of the strengths and weaknesses in relation to other studies, discussing particularly differences in results. I have only one question. As the authors state, a main limitation of the study is related to the loss to follow-up. The 257 participants that were not followed-up, had marginally smaller waist circumferences, how could this bias interfere in the results of the study?

Minor issue

In Background “socio-economically”.

In table 4 Arm circumference Hazard Ratio (95%IC) 2nd quarter : 0.6 (0.4-1.0).

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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