Reviewer's report

Title: Household food insecurity and symptoms of neurologic disorder in Ethiopia: An observational analysis

Version: 1 Date: 23 August 2010

Reviewer: Xiang Gao

Reviewer's report:

The study is well done and the findings are interesting and may have an important implication in public health. There are some suggestions/comments about this manuscript.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1) Please give the cut-off point used to define FI in the current study. Was the standard cut-off point used? If so, whether is the prevalence of FI in this sample similar with other populations with similar SES?

2) Please re-group subjects into 3 or 4 categories according to their FI status and test whether there is a positive trend between FI status and risk of having ND.

3) Individuals with one certain ND could have a higher likelihood to having other NDs and therefore it is important to adjust for each other in the final models. Moreover, it would be better to have an additional table to show the relationship between different NDs.

4) It would be also of interest to see whether there was a significant association between FI status and the number of NDs.

5) Whether all ND cases were confirmed by neurologists? If not, please address this in limitation section.

Minor Essential Revisions

6) One major concern is that the investigators failed to collect dietary intake data and therefore were unable to know whether the observed associations between FI and NDs were due to malnutrition or other factors. This should be addressed in the discussion section.

7) In a recent study, FI was found to be associated with a lower cognitive function in a Hispanics living US. It would be important to cite this study:


8) It would be important to give more details regarding the asset index in the method section and in footnote of tables.
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.

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