Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Anxiety and depression lowers blood pressure: 22-year follow-up of the population based HUNT study, Norway

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 20 March 2011

**Reviewer:** Jenny van Son

**Reviewer’s report:**

- **Minor Essential Revisions**
  The author can be trusted to make these. For example, missing labels on figures, the wrong use of a term, spelling mistakes.

  1. Make sure the language you use is U.K. English or U.S. English and not a mixture of both.

- **Discretionary Revisions**
  These are recommendations for improvement which the author can choose to ignore. For example clarifications, data that would be useful but not essential.

  Remarks concerning the discussion section:

  1. Another limitation of the study is the cross-sectional design.
  2. Another limitation is the fact that the blood pressure was measured at one time point, instead of (for example) a whole day with an ambulant measurement device.
  3. Another comment is that differences are quickly significant with such a large sample. The differences in blood pressure are very small. Are these differences relevant?
  4. I would appreciate it when the authors would elaborate more on possible explanations for their findings.
  5. Could there be an association with a lower level of cortisol in people with chronic depressive symptoms?

**Other:**

  1. Background second paragraph: comma after Secondly.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the
statistics.

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