Author's response to reviews

Title: Health-related quality of life and long-term care needs among elderly subjects living alone: A cross-sectional study in rural areas of Shaanxi Province, China

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors:

We would like to submit the enclosed manuscript entitled “Health-related quality of life and long-term care needs among elderly subjects living alone: A cross-sectional study in rural areas of Shaanxi Province, China”, which we wish to be considered for publication in “BMC Public Health”.

We think this research article merits publication in BMC Public Health because it investigated the Health-related quality of life and long-term care needs among elderly subjects living alone in rural areas of Shaanxi Province, China. Furthermore, this survey was the first step of a series of trials for improving HRQoL and the need for long-term care services in Shaanxi Province, a typical province with HRQoL among elderly subjects living alone declined with age in both males and females in western China. Our study found the main diseases influencing HRQoL among the elderly were: hypertension, cardiac disease, chronic bronchitis, neurological disease and cancer. The factors with greatest influence on HRQoL were: cataract disease, long-term care needs, living conditions, economic status, cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis disease and age; the factors affecting long-term care needs of the elderly people were: economic status, education level, alcohol intake, living conditions, general health, and age. The HRQoL and long-term care needs among elderly people were significantly correlated ($r=-0.204, P<0.01$). The results of this analysis provide an overall picture of the HRQoL and long-term care needs among elderly subjects living alone in rural Shaanxi Province, which may facilitate further prospective studies.

We therefore think our results will be of interest to BMC Public Health readers.

The material has not been submitted for publication elsewhere while under consideration for BMC Public Health. Also the material has not been published previously in print or electronic format, and is not under consideration by another publication or electronic medium.

The following is a list of possible reviewers for your consideration:

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We deeply appreciate your consideration of our manuscript, and we look forward to receiving comments from the reviewers. If you have any queries, please don’t hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Thank you and best regards.

Yours sincerely,

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