Dear Drs. Iratxe Puebla and Rikki Graham:

Thank you very much for your consideration on our work. We have revised the manuscript according to the comments. Attached please find our responses to the suggestions and comments.

I hope that you will find the revised manuscript acceptable for publication in BMC, and am looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Best wishes,
Rui Wang

Reviewer: Dr. Giovanni Apolone
According to the suggestion, we reinforced the limitation chapter of this study.

Minor essentials
1. The difference between responders/included and non-responders/not included. If Authors cannot formally make a comparison of the 2 samples, this fact should be reinforced in the part of the Discussion dedicated to the study limitations.

Response:
There are some limitations in this study. Detailed information on non-responders
were not collected, we were not sure whether there were differences between responders and non-responders.

2. I am happy the Authors believe that interviewrs’ explanation had no influence on results, but it would be better if they try to demonstrate this fact. Again, if this cannot be done for lack of data to make this additional analysis, this limitaion should be stated in the limitations chapter.

Response:

Although the interviewers received uniform training, there still might be influence of the interviewrs’ explanation on the results, and it was difficult to evaluate, which was also the limitation of this survey.

3. In this sample the female perception of health seems to be quite different than in other (non cinese) surveys; in some subgroups female did report a better mental health, a fact that is not usual in non-chinese samples; this fact should be discussed in a deeper way in the Discussion, may be including some of the explanations only reported in the Autors’ response letter.

Response:

Although the female had worse HRQL in most subgroups, in some subgroups female did report a better mental health. The same results were found in other Chinese populations (Hangzhou, Sichuan, Hongkong and American Chinese), a fact which is not usual in non-Chinese population. The outcome indicated the serious mental problems in Chinese men, which might be due to the huge stress in both work and life.