Reviewer's report

Title: Sleep Quality in Middle-aged and Elderly Chinese: distribution, associated factors and associations with cardio-metabolic risk factors

Version: 2 Date: 25 February 2009

Reviewer: James Rohrer

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Specify some primary hypotheses a priori to create focus. The focus should related to a gap in the sleep epidemiology literature. Other findings relating to confounders will be reported but will not be the focus of the paper.

2. This is not a study of sleep disorders but of subjectively assessed sleep quality, so self-reported measures are appropriate. However, the authors should discuss how the measure of sleep quality used is similar or different from that used in other epidemiological studies. Clinical measurement of sleep disorders is not necessary in population epi studies.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Mention as limitations of the study that obesity and an alcohol use were coded with limited ranges. Had morbid obesity or higher levels of alcohol use been included as categories, these risk factors might have become significant.

Discretionary Revisions

1. Reanalyze the data with bmi>35 as a category and drinking frequency categories.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.