Reviewer’s report

Title: Chronic disease prevalence and care among elderly in urban and rural China - a 10/66 Dementia Research Group survey: a cross-sectional study

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Reviewer: James Laditka

Reviewer’s report:

This is a well conducted study that is also presented effectively. No revisions are required. The finding that only 5.1% of hypertension cases were controlled in the rural sample, compared with 44.7% in the urban sample, suggests that the future prevalence of dementia may rise to higher levels than those anticipated by the sources the authors cite. This seems likely because hypertension appears to be a major risk factor for developing dementia, and the anticipated dementia prevalence rates are based solely on population aging. Of course, this concern assumes that the rates of uncontrolled hypertension are greater now than when the current cohort of those at ages most at risk for dementia were younger. Given industrialization that is sweeping China, and its attendant increases in hypertension risk factors, this seems likely even in the rural areas studied. Thus, the study may importantly suggest greater dementia prevalence in China’s future than is currently expected.

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

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.