Reviewer’s report

Title: Predictors of mortality of patients newly diagnosed with clinical type 2 diabetes: a 5-year follow up study

Version: 2 Date: 21 February 2010

Reviewer: Jan Cederholm

Reviewer’s report:

I find that the authors have responded sufficiently to my questions regarding major and minor revisions in the previous version 2, and have changed the manuscript accordingly.

I have only two minor revisions for this version 3.

1. Estimation of mean survival time has now been explained in the statistical section. However, Table 2 should use the same terminology: mean survival time, instead of life expectancy. As far as I can understand this method, it estimates mean survival time based on the observed follow-up period.

   Analysis of life expectancy is often carried out with a method for survival analysis, where age is substituted for time in the regression, in order to allow extrapolation beyond the observed follow-up period. Median life expectancy can be calculated as area under this predicted survival curve. See Nelson et al as reference (Statistics In Medicine 2008;27:5525-5555).

2. A main result of this study is that less than excellent self rated health (SRH) is a risk factor for 5-year total mortality. However, how should a clinician act if comparing two patients with good or fair/very poor SRH, which also were the most frequently reported SRH alternatives? This should be somewhat more commented in the Results and Discussion sections.

   As far as I can see in Table 1, a weaker trend of increasing HR for risk total mortality, when comparing good or fair/very poor SHR with excellent SHR as reference, still remained when adjusting for risk factors according to Model 1 in Table 1, although this trend was less pronounced than at the univariate analysis.
**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