Reviewer's report

**Title:** Personality in women and associations with mortality A 40-year follow-up in the Population Study of Women in Gothenburg

**Version:** 2

**Date:** 22 November 2013

**Reviewer:** Hajime Iwasa

**Reviewer's report:**

This is a brief report that addresses personality and mortality among middle-aged women living in Sweden. The advantage of the present study is the high participation rate and the very long time span of follow up. The manuscript was simple and well written. However, the present version of this manuscript has some weaknesses which should be overcome. Give further attention to the issues below.

- **Major Compulsory Revisions**

  1. In the Statistical section, the authors wrote, when they examined a linear association between personality and mortality, 'age at baseline was used as covariate in all models'. I wonder they should use other covariates which include marital status, socioeconomic group, education, alcohol, smoking, chronic disease (if any), which have important roles for adjustments for the relationship between personality and mortality.

  2. I could not understand fully the statistical methods to examine the relationship between personality traits and mortality. I wonder whether the authors created and used dummy variables or not, when they tested the relationship between quartile of personality trait and mortality. They should clearly state this.

- **Minor Essential Revisions**

  3. In Figure 1 and 2, the authors should show what the vertical axis mean. And then, if the axis mean proportion of survival, the value '120' is impossible.

- **Discretionary Revisions**

  None.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests' below.