Reviewer's report

Title: The nursing staff's experiences of falls among older persons with dementia. A cross-sectional study.

Version: 1 Date: 11 April 2011

Reviewer: Louis Paquay

Reviewer's report:

There are several areas in this manuscript which require attention:

1) the title of the manuscript is not relevant for the research question. "The nursing staff's opinions ..." or "The nursing staff's conceptions ..." might be more relevant?

2) Discretionary Revision: In the Background section it was insufficiently explained how the nurses' conception of caring for older persons with dementia and higher risk for falling was reduced to four areas: causes of falls, interventions, documentation and report, experiences and reactions.

3) Discretionary revision: Cronbach’s alpha is mentioned in the Methods section. It might be an indicator of internal consistency of a subscale and investigation of the internal consistency might have been part of the objectives of the study?

4) Minor Revision: Head nurses coordinated the distribution and collection of questionnaires. Might there have been some pressure on the nurses to participate involuntary?

5) Major Revision: page 11 : Nursing staff with olonger experience in (instead of from) health care used assistance with personal hygiene as a fall prevention significantly more often than colleagues with less experience (Z = 2.242, p=0.03. Not shown in table). However, in table 3 there is a non-significant difference between < 5 years experience and > 5 years experience for ‘Assistance with personal hygiene’. These results are ambiguous.

6) Major Revision: Page 11 : The respondents prioritized control and safety to the same degree as the resident’s freedom of movement when they chose strategies to prevent falls (figure 1). This statement should be supported by the result of a statistical test, not by a figure. Both figures might be omitted.

7) Major Revision: Page 12 : Results for Tables 3 and 4 might be documented in full text, the tables omitted.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.