Reviewer's report

Title: Sleep disturbances in an arctic population: The Tromso study

Version: 1 Date: 23 October 2007

Reviewer: Moshe Kotler

Reviewer's report:

Minor Study Corrections
1. While the authors mention the economic effects of insomnia in the last part of the protocol, for stylistic purposes it may merit mention in the introduction given the importance of the factor.
2. Page 5: interestingly sleep deprivation may not only be associated with depression but also treatment for treatment-resistant depression despite not being used that much anymore for such purposes.
3. Page 6: how is BMI associated with sleep duration i.e. high or low?
4. Page 8, first paragraph: it would be good for the authors to mention some theory behind the pathophysiology of sleep insomnia along with some pertinent references.
5. Page 8, paragraph 2, line 4: is it the intention of the study to arrive at some consensus as to what study scales should be used to evaluate insomnia? If so, this should be mentioned.
6. Can the authors generalize from this study to other populations given the distinctive aspects of the Arctic population and its unique weather/seasonal changes?
7. Scales used are good.
8. Sample population is ambitious but a wonderful number to achieve if feasible.
9. Why did the authors decide on only 10% of the various age groups they did and all inhabitants in other age groups? Was this arbitrary based on practicalities?
10. Is any follow-up planned of the population over time?
11. Prequires CONSORT diagram flow chart of the study

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the
statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

No