Reviewer's report

Title: A prospective study of Nutrition Education and Oral Nutritional Supplementation in patients with Alzheimer’s Disease

Version: 1 Date: 3 July 2011

Reviewer: Lorenzo M M Donini

Reviewer’s report:

Referee’s comments to the authors:
The aim of the study is to evaluate if there is a difference between nutrition education and oral nutritional supplementation (ONS) on nutritional status in patients with Alzheimer’s Disease (AD).

The authors face up to an important problem: the nutritional status of AD patients may modify morbidity, quality of life and mortality of these subjects.

Scientific content provide confirmatory of important information but the design of the study is weak and some important conceptual remarks can be done.

In particular it is not clear if cognitive status influenced the efficacy of education intervention and how food intake was modified during the study due to the different intervention protocols.

Moreover: was does it means “CG ... did not receive any form of intervention” ??
I suppose that, at least, usual diet was adapted to patient needs.

Results are not clear (see table 3): units are not described and it is difficult to understand the improvement/decline in particular of TLC, total protein and albumin.

It is also difficult to understand the variation of BMI (e.g.: if there is a decline of 2.2 kg, the decline of BMI cannot be 2.21 kg/m2 for subjects whose stature is 1.57 m)

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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’