Reviewer's report

Title: Effectiveness of the National Program of Complementary Feeding for older adults in Chile on vitamin B12 status in older adults; secondary outcome analysis from the CENEX Study (ISRCTN48153354)

Version: 2 Date: 29 April 2013

Reviewer: mary rose sweeney

Reviewer's report:

Abstract
The authors use the term vitamin B12 supplemented food - the correct term to use is "B12 fortified food"
The authors state that the controls received "no food" - this implies some sort of starvation regime - I doubt if this was the case.
Remove the word epidemiological as it is not used in its proper context here.

Introduction
The first sentence does not make sense, the rate of ageing cannot be unprecedented - we are all ageing at the same rate. Themove this sentence.
The authors state "The deficiency is greater in men than in women"
...... do they mean prevalence rates or severity ?
The authors should state how much B12 is delivered in the PACAM programme immediately before or after they state the amount of folic acid delivered to older people in the government mandate.

Subjects and methods
Use months instead of mo
was normal cognitive functioning an exclusion criteria? - this is how it currently reads

Statistical Analysis
The first mention of the SRH is in the stats section. You need to mention it in the methods section, how administered it, was it before and after, and response rates?

Results
why do the authors make reference to supraphysiological levles of folic
acid when no further analysis, linkage, mention, interpretation is made
in the latter sections of the manuscript.

The authors mention anaemia but don't specify type or how this was measured.

Discussion

Need to re-iterate what the recommended intake of B12 is in this population

The authors make a recommendation for fortifying PACAM with crystalline
B12 but don't mention the need for an evaluation of its effectiveness.

The authors supplied a table in their cover letter in response to my
earlier request as to how representative their population are of the
older Chilean national population. They have supplied a table but it is
missing the information I would like to see specifically on typical
folate, and B12 intakes and status in a national sample.