Reviewer's report

Title: Effect of multivitamin and multimineral supplementation on cognitive function in men and women aged 65 years and over: a randomised controlled trial.

Version: 1 Date: 4 January 2007
Reviewer: Bjorn Gunnarsson

Reviewer's report:

General

1. This study is a quite large randomized controlled trial. The study question is clear, and the study is well-conducted and concise.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

2. In page 7 line 3, shouldn’t the reference cited be no. 14 instead of 15.

3. In page 7 line 9, the reviewer wonders if the value of mean change for verbal fluency scores of 0.75 is correct, while according to the values shown in Table 2 one would expect higher value of mean change. Perhaps the authors should double-check this.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

4. Perhaps the authors should explain why they chose only to use the two cognitive parameters reported and not also other measurements, such as concentration as they mention in Discussion, which might have been interesting to investigate.

5. As correctly indicated by the authors in Discussion, using a questionnaire for risk assessment of nutrients, can be considered a weakness of the study. Do the authors know if any validation or standardization exists for this estimate against a “true” deficiency measured with blood nutritional status. Perhaps a closer description of this risk estimate is in order.

6. In Table 2 the reviewer is little bit bothered by having different number of decimals for mean absolute values (1 decimal) on the one hand and mean difference in those abs. values (2 decimals) on the other. Probably this is not an important issue.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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