Reviewer's report

**Title:** Associations between air pollution and perceived stress: the VA Normative Aging Study

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 27 September 2014

**Reviewer:** Mieczyslaw Szyszkowicz

**Reviewer's report:**

**Discretionary Revisions**

I have the following remarks (I will use the term You="Dear authors"):  
1. The paper is well written and presented, and satisfies all the points of evaluations (1-7) suggested to the reviewers by the EH Journal.
2. In the title you have the abbreviation VA, the same is in your abstract, and latter (p6) is not defined. Please define accordingly.
3. In the abstract: i). “at least 1 visit”, better “at least one visit”, ii). You use term “warm/cold season” and unnecessary you introduce the term warm/cold months; better keep April-Sept and Oct-Mar as warm/cold season – no months.
4. P11: SAS. Please specify the used subroutine to realize your model..
5. P12: You said “seasonality sine and cosine of calendar day”, but latter you said: “we evaluated if season (April-September…) modified the association…” – Is it OK?
6. P12: Alcohol consumption. I with my colleagues studied ED visits for alcohol consumption (as a measurement of stress/depression) in relation to ambient air pollution. In my opinion this factor belongs to health response in the same category as stress..
7. P14: “While modest correlations were observed for mean PSS score between visits.…” – which visits (first and second)? You later specified that 1st and 4th.

Thank you

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.