Reviewer's report

Title: Tinnitus in elderly patients and prognosis of mild-to-moderate congestive heart failure: a cross-sectional study with a long-term extension of the clinical follow-up

Version: 2 Date: 12 December 2010

Reviewer: Dirk De Ridder

Reviewer's report:

response to question 1: The reviewer still thinks that when performing multiple t-tests, there should be a correction for multiple corrections. Even though the authors mention they performed a logistic regression analysis, I could not find this in the results section. The editor might want to consult his statistician to solve this topic.

question 2: A better way to answer this question would be to insert high frequency hearing loss (presbyacusis) in the logistic regression model. If tinnitus is related to presbyacusis, then the presbyacusis related tinnitus might result in increased distress resulting in worsening of CHF. Without this insertion of hearing loss into the logistic regression model it is impossible to solve the chicken and egg problem: 1. CHF worsening results in tinnitus or 2. presbyacusis leads to tinnitus-distress worsening an already failing heart.

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests