Reviewer’s report

Title: Elevated Blood Pressure Level Based on 2017 ACC/AHA Guideline in Relation to Stroke Risk in Rural Areas of Liaoning Province

Version: 3 Date: 15 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Research Square

Reviewer's report:

"STATISTICAL REVIEWER ASSESSMENT:

Is the study design appropriate for the research question (considering whether the analyzed population accurately reflects the design and whether you see any problems with control/comparison groups, e.g., likely confounders)?

Yes - overall design, population, and control groups are appropriate

Are methodologies adequate and well implemented (considering whether assumptions are addressed and whether analyses are robust)?

Yes - methodologies are adequate and well implemented, assumptions are addressed, analysis is robust

Are the analyses adequately communicated (considering whether reporting details are adequate and whether figures and tables are well labeled and described)?

No - there are minor issues

Does the interpretation accurately reflect the analyses without overstatement (considering whether limitations/bias are acknowledged and whether accurate descriptors, e.g., 'significant', are used)?

Yes - interpretation accurately reflects analyses, limitations/bias are acknowledged, accurate descriptors are used

Could an appropriately REVISED version of this work represent a statistically sound contribution?
Probably - with minor revisions

STATISTICAL REVIEWER COMMENTS:

The authors have addressed most comments. They still haven't presented the correct global p-value for the categorical variable included in the Cox model.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:

The authors have still not addressed the previous reviewer comment regarding the global p-value for BP level. Any model that presents a categorical variable, should present a p-value for the covariate as a whole. I'm not sure why you have removed the estimates and p-values for each BP level from Model 1, that was not what I was asking. The authors should present an overall p-value for BP level in addition to the p-values presented for each BP level. If you are using SPSS for your analysis, there were will be a sig. value for BP level just above the output for the 'elevated' category (it should have a df=3). This is the global p-value that tests the covariate as a whole."

Are the methods appropriate and well described?  
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?  
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?  
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?  
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

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