Reviewer's report

Title: Vitamin B12 and folate levels in healthy swiss senior citizens

Version: Date: 27 November 2014

Reviewer: Johnny McHugh

Reviewer's report:

This is a fascinating study delineating B12 & folate levels in an elderly population that would be of interest to geriatricians, haematologists and general practitioners.

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined? Yes
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described? Yes
3. Are the data sound? Yes
4. Do the figures appear to be genuine, i.e. without evidence of manipulation? Yes
5. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? Yes
6. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? Yes
7. Are limitations of the work clearly stated? Yes
8. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished? Yes
9. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? Yes
10. Is the writing acceptable? Generally yes, although the English could be improved in some parts. These would probably be minor essential revisions to improve the readability of the manuscript. For example in line 68 I suggest using "essential" rather than "inalienable". On line 108 I suggest "interferes" rather than "came to interfere" On line 110 I suggest "cleavage" rather than "scission". On line 111 I suggest "Satisfactory functioning" rather than "The well functioning". On line 112 I suggest "has" rather than "receive". On line 145 should it read "Caucasian" rather than "Kaukasian"? On line 166 I suggest "morning" rather than "matutinal". The "and" in line 245 seems unnecessary. On line 245 I suggest "the" rather than "a prevalence". On line 363 I suggest "limitations including" rather than "weak issues indeed" On line 376 I suggest "the claim to be made" rather than "to claim". Also on line 376 I suggest "to a lesser extent" rather than "less"

Discretionary revisions: In the results section the authors state the percentage of study participants with low B12 across the three age groups studied. I think it would be worthwhile stating similar results for folate deficiency across the three age groups and perhaps also for combined B12 and folate deficiency.
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests