Reviewer's report

Title: Attitudes and preferences towards screening for dementia: a systematic review of the literature

Version: 4 Date: 4 January 2015

Reviewer: Wei Zhang

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions:

Abstract
Line 38: It is very challenging to review the international literature on dementia with no language restriction. I am wondering how the authors handle this task.

Line 42: What does "double quality assessed" mean?

Line 45: The authors mentioned that "29,910 papers were identified of which 30 met the inclusion criteria." What is the "inclusion criteria?" Does it mean that all the results are based on the 30 articles?

Background
Line 80: It seems that the purpose of this systematic review is to address one screening criterion proposed by the UK National Screening Committee, namely, acceptability. So I am wondering that what the study population of this review is. Does it involve the UK population only as other countries may use different screening criterion?

Method
Lines 93-95: Since I am not familiar with the PRISMA guidelines, I wish the authors could briefly introduce the method to readers.

Line 98: What is "an iterative procedure?"

Line 117: Why were the opinion-based papers excluded? The authors need a brief justification here.

Line 130: It is not clear what "a broad consideration of all outcome measures" mean? What is the relationship between primary and secondary outcomes? This paper seems a little bit too complicated with so many outcome measures and so many views from the general public, patients, caregivers, and health professionals.

Line 147: Again, please explain the "inclusion criteria."

Line 156: Why were all studies regardless of their quality included?

Results:
Line 209: How many papers met criteria and were analyzed eventually? Why is there a huge reduction in the number of papers? Should the sample
characteristics go to the method section?

In summary, this review paper is important and timely. However, I see so many variables are involved in the paper and this makes analysis and interpretation very difficult. For instance, the analyzed 29-30 studies are conducted in many different countries. Different countries have different policies, cultures, and value system, so it is very hard to generalize results on the basis of the limited number of studies in so many diverse countries.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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