Reviewer's report

Title: Relationship between the Montreal Cognitive Assessment and Mini-Mental State Examination for Assessment of Mild Cognitive Impairment in Older Adults

Version: 3
Date: 24 March 2015
Reviewer: Maha Maha El Gaafary

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
- Lines from 106 – 109 better to be included in the methods section. Objective needs to be more specific.
- Line 114: 838 case visits – Does this implies that a patient could be enrolled twice or what? IS it case visit or cases?
- Is the clinical diagnosis your gold standard? Does the clinician states his final diagnosis based on other tests than the ones you are evaluating?
- Line 118: What are the biological markers and the neuroimaging data taken into consideration in diagnosis?
- Line 136-137: Considering the case in ADNI-2 to be a different case even if he has a diagnostic data in ADNI-GO, Does this mean duplication of cases or the diagnosis may differ as the patient become subjected to treatment that may change his level of cognitive impairment?
- Concerning FAQ: Lines 161 – 164: You consider dementia if both scoring system are positive?
- Line 174 on…: How did you analyze the different domains in MMSE and MoCA to differentiate between HC and MCI? Which domain was found the best in discriminating between HC from MCI? The result of regression should be included.
- Line 195: Please provide a brief description on the equi-percentile equating method with log-linear smoothing.
- Line 200-201: Provide a detail for sensitivity analysis – those 618 one test visit how they would differ from the rest concerning the number of visits for testing?
- Line 203: Do you mean by conclusion the diagnosis?
- Line 220 – 222: Better to include the data in a table.
- Better to include a table for classification of cases by MMSE and MoCA with and without FAQ and Trail-Making tests. The scatter plot is good but not informative in numbers.
- Line 265: Is this correlation with the total score or what?
- It is better to include a flow chart representing an algorithm for diagnosing MCI and Dementia based on the results of the 4 tests (MMSE, MoCA, FAQ and
Trail-Making) and you can include others for confirmation.
- If you have a gold standard, comparing the ROC of MoCA with that of MMSE in MCI and dementia diagnoses will be beneficial.

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

None