Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence of frailty and contributory factors in three Chinese populations with different socioeconomic and healthcare characteristics

Version: 0 Date: 15 Sep 2015

Reviewer: Wen Hu

Reviewer's report:

The concept "frailty" should be clearly defined and specifically described. The authors failed to explain why they analyse these contributory factors, not others? More justifications and explanations are needed. Please cite some empirical studies in the literature. Is there any missing data and how did the authors handle the missing data? Please specify. The number of participants should be mentioned in the Participants section.

The authors should provide at least a paragraph clearly describe the content and the quality of the dataset. The authors failed to explain why use FI/LE as the indicator of "compression of morbidity"? A proper citation and reference is required. The authors should explain the underlying mechanisms of their findings and note that some factors (e.g., alcohol intake and being physically inactive) have a bi-directional association with frailty. Please elaborate and explain what is going on.

Some language corrections are needed. For example, it is difficult to understand the sentence "The frailty index [FI] for Beijing was constructed from 34 items, while only items which are the same as those used for the Beijing cohort was were used to construct the frailty index in Hong Kong: 23 items [Table 1]."

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

Unable to assess

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

Unable to assess

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

Unable to assess
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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