Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors associated with Consumption of Alcohol in Older Adults - a Comparison between Two Cultures, China and Norway: The CLHLS and the HUNT-Study

Version: 0 Date: 26 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Abhijit Nadkarni

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting study exploring differential drinking and correlates in two distinct cultures. However the manuscript requires some more refinement before being considered for publication.

1) The manuscript requires major revisions to improve language. Some examples of language errors are as follows

   Cultural factors play an important role for e drinking

   ….but also to everyday life situations including relaxing and having enjoying leisure time

   …..had selected participants from 22 provinces which representing 85% of the total…..

2) Results section of the abstract

   -'The percentages of participants who..' should be replaced with the 'The prevalence…..'

   -'The prevalence of alcohol consumption among older men was higher than that among older women both in China and Norway'. Please present the actual prevalences

3) Older adults living in institutions were not included. This will introduce a selection bias. Needs to be discussed in the limitations section

4) '….as well as variables possibly related to the outcome…'. Since this is a cross sectional study direction of causality cannot be established. hence 'outcome' is not an appropriate word
5) Definitions of 'current drinking' are different in the two surveys. Needs to acknowledged in the limitations

6) 'The exploring variables with possible relationship to consumption of alcohol were gender, age, level of education, marital status (living or not living spouse or partner), living in rural (versus urban) areas, self-rated overall health' Were all of these added to the model simultaneously? If yes then this is the biggest problem with the manuscript as it is not an appropriate way of doing multivariable analysis. The authors should first conduct univariate analysis. Variables that are significantly related with drinking at p<0.1 can be added to the regression model and can be removed from the model in a stepwise manner until all the variables remaining in the model are significantly associated with drinking.

7) Please present 95% CI with the ORs in the results section

8) Strengths of the study are not discussed

9) Was there a minimum dataset for refusals in the original surveys i.e. was it possible to examine whether the refusals were in any way systematically different from those that consented to enter the study
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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