Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence of frailty and its associated factors in older hospitalised patients in Vietnam

Version: 0 Date: 08 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Monica Perracini

Reviewer’s report:

Overall, this study related to frailty in hospitalized older adults in Vietnam is interesting and well written. Its main strength is that it was conducted in a developing country, since there is a scarcity of studies with this population. Although, the results are not surprising or new, it's critically important for police makers worldwide to be aware about frailty as a public health concern.

Major problems

Page 4 1st Paragraph - please provide relevant information about the relation between hospitalization and frailty. There is relevant literature concerning frailty transitions and hospitalization. The discussion about the impact of hospitalizations upon frail and non-frail patients should be addressed. The fact that frailty is related with hospitalization is well known.

Page 4 2nd Paragraph - you can expand your argumentation about the necessity of conducting studies on frailty in developing countries with the fact that the long-term burden of chronic diseases is significant in the population living in this areas.

Page 4 last Paragraph - Is the National Geriatric Hospital different in any way of other hospitals in Vietnam? I do think that this can be left out from the objective.

Page 5, 1st Paragraph line 1 - This is a cross-sectional study.

Page 5 line 17 - Authors did not report how they addressed the independent variables. Was it done by a questionnaire? Who answered the questions? Patients themselves or proxies?

Authors should provide information and references to what they considered poor nutritional status, BMI classification.

Page 5, line 39 - Provide the reference for the cut-off points reported for grip strength.

Page 6, 1st Paragraph line 1 - include 0.8 m/s as the appropriate information since 5 seconds is not currently used.

Page 6 line 4 - Physical activity is defined as any body movement with muscle contraction energy expenditure. Authors used planned exercise as the criteria. Please provide a reference for
this or explain why you decided to address it in this way. Fried's phenotype clearly refers the low physical activity as an indirect measure of energy expenditure. There was a probably overestimation of the prevalence of this criteria. If so, refers it as a study limitation.

Probably this is one of the main reasons why you observed a high prevalence of the low physical activity component of the Fried phenotype. The reported physical performance component of the REFS also addresses quite rigorous-intensity activities. This may be better discussed.

Page 6 line 51 - Please clearly specify if at the logistic regression analysis you compared frail older people with non-frail and pre-frail. Report how you addressed dummy variables and multicollinearity.

Page 6 line 56 - Describe how many patients came from each different ward.

Page 8 line 12 - Authors should be cautious when saying the protein supplementation can reverse frailty. The reference provided states clearly that there is no clear evidence till date for supporting the use of protein supplementation alone to reverse frailty or even show improvement on muscle mass and muscle function.

Page 8 line 24 - The association between frailty and cardiovascular disease is not new. So the important issue here is the fact that these patients usually are not assessed in terms of frailty and there is a window of opportunity to prevent secondary consequences related to frailty in this population, such as falls and other geriatric syndromes. This should be better discussed.

Minor problems

Make a revision on tables format.

A p value of 0.00 should be reported as < 0.001. Provide p values with 2 or 3 decimal cases, but you have to have standardization for that.

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

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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