Author’s response to reviews

Title: Dementia and cognitive disorder identified at a forensic psychiatric examination - a study from Sweden

Authors:

Anette Ekström (Anette.Ekstrom@ptj.se)
Marianne Kristiansson (Marianne.Kristiansson@rmv.se)
Karin Björkstén (Karin.Sparring.Bjorksten@ki.se)

Version: 2 Date: 14 Aug 2017

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor!

We thank you for your comments and hope that our paper after the new revision is to your liking.

Karin Sparring Björkstén

Editor Comments:

The paper has improved substantially.

COMMENT: Thank you!

A few minor comments:

- Present data from table 3 in text only
This paragraph containing mainly of Table 3 has been replaced by the following text without Table 3:

Symptoms of dementia in the running text of the case files

We scrutinized the running text of the files for mentioning a number of common symptoms of dementia. Not surprisingly, “Lack of judgment” was specifically mentioned in all the 21 cases and “No insight in illness” in 16 cases.

Major cognitive symptoms appeared in all the cases: “Impaired memory” (n=20), “Impairment of executive function” (n=19), “Impaired ability to understand instructions” (n=19), “Impaired knowledge of time” (n=17), “Inability to reason” (n=15), “Problems to handle ADL” (n=15), “Disorientation” (n=12), “Aphasia” (n=10), “Prosopagnosia” (n=8) and “Dyscalculia” (n=7).

“Agitated/aggressive behaviour” was mentioned in 16 cases and overtly psychotic symptoms like “Theories of conspiracy” in 11 cases, “Delusions” in seven cases and “Hallucinations” in two cases. “Delirium at some time” was mentioned in 19 cases, and “confabulation” in nine cases. Fourteen persons were “Isolating themselves” and four showed “Symptom of depression”. “Affect incontinence” was mentioned in four cases.

COMMENT The previous Table 4 (page 13) is now called Table 3

- Add MSSE to table 1

COMMENT: The psychological tests performed were much more extensive than MMSE.

There were unfortunately not enough MMSE scores presented in the summaries of the psychological assessments to make a meaningful table.

Page 7, line 1, the word “extensive” was added, so the first sentence now starts:

“The conclusions from the extensive psychological testing….”
- Leave out the following sentence as that is obvious: "Our findings underline the importance of protecting the brain from trauma, disease, and alcohol as far as possible, which concerns every practicing physician."

COMMENT: The sentence (page 14, line 46) has been removed

- Explain 'probation'

COMMENT: The following sentence has been added to the Background section (page 5, line 58)

“Probation, a non-custodial sanction that places the convicted person under supervision, is another possible verdict.”

Abstract

Results section:
- Add number number male/female to first sentence

COMMENT: The first sentence in the Results section page 3, line 23 in the Abstract now reads:

“There were 17 men and 3 women; Median age 66 (n=21; Range 35-77) years of age.”

- Mention verdict in results section, not conclusion section

COMMENT: The sentence on page 3, line 51 “In this very ill group, the suggested verdict was probation in one case and different forms of care in the remaining 20 cases instead of prison.” has been moved to the end of the Results section.