Reviewer’s report

Title: Relative importance of four functional measures as predictors of 15-year mortality in the older Dutch population

Version: 1 Date: 27 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Siti Setiati

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the responses. I notice the effort you've made to take our feedbacks into account and I really appreciate. The background and discussion is now clearer. Overall, I think you conveyed valid, interesting points and found no problem with the content of the manuscript. However, If you continue to improve the language, it will definitely improve this article since some sentences are still awkward to read and will benefit from revisions. Here is some examples:

2.2.2 Background should explain what is physical function and elaborate the effect of ageing and physical function. (page 6 line 6).

Response: The text has been changed into the following sentences - Ageing is accompanied by loss of physical function. Physical function is the common term for a combination of endurance, muscle power, balance, and coordination, which capacities are related to exercise, health status, and genetic and environmental factors. With ageing, from early midlife the maximal physical function decreases slowly. - COMMENTS: please recheck this statement, in the manuscript that I received, the sentence "Ageing is accompanied by loss of physical function" was deleted. In addition, to provide an example of my point about language improvement, here is my suggestion for the writing: Ageing process is accompanied by the loss of physical function. Physical function is the common term used to describe the combination of endurance, muscle power.... Etc. the maximal physical function decreases gradually due to ageing since early midlife.

2.2.4 Explanation of self-reported functional limitations as "experienced difficulty doing activity of daily living" needs grammatical correction and should be rephrased for it to make sense. (page 6 line 11-13)

Response: the explanation has been changed into the following sentence on page 6 line 11-13: "Experienced difficulty in performing activities of daily living."

COMMENTS: it needs grammatical correction, as a suggestion: ..self-reported measures, such as reports of experiencing difficulty in performing activities of daily living (i.e. self-reported functional limitations)
2.3.4 How many was the total participants in LASA cycle 95-96? How many had sufficient data to be included in this study? Were they all included? What's the reason for exclusion? (page 8 line 1-5)

Response: Starting from 727 men and 778 women, we included all participants with data on each test. This number varied across tests, with a minimum of 680 men and 702 women in the analyses including all tests.

COMMENTS: the sentence is unclear and needs to be rephrased.

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

Yes

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

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I am able to assess the statistics

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