Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors associated with alcohol consumption and prescribed drugs with addiction potential among older women and men – The Nord-Trøndelag Health Study (HUNT2 and HUNT3), Norway, a population-based longitudinal study

Version: 0 Date: 06 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer’s report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?

Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

Yes - the approach is appropriate

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

Yes - experiments and analyses were performed appropriately

Statistics - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?

Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

Yes - the author's interpretation is reasonable

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Is the current version of this work technically sound? If not, can revisions be made to make the work technically sound?
Probably - with minor revisions

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: This is a straightforward study of a repeat assessment of a large cohort of Norwegian citizens with respect to their drinking and prescribed drug use. The data are complex, but the discussion is (for the most part) clear. The study has potential clinical implications that could be drawn out more.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:

They should explain the delay. So, consideration will be needed of whether a more current survey might produce different data.

As the final sample included very few participants of 80+ years (and a very low proportion of those invited) perhaps they should be excluded from the analyses.

Please explain why you dichotomized the outcome variables.

Results

For the data shown in Table 4, it is unclear whether the combined use people are also included in the single-use analyses.

Also with respect to Table 4, the text refers only to the unadjusted data. The unadjusted data are a big distraction when trying to make sense of Table 4. Consider listing Table 4 as a Supplementary online file and showing only the adjusted data here.

Discussion

A table summarizing the factors associated with each of alcohol/drugs/combination would be helpful as an overview. Without this there is too much information to hold easily in mind. In particular, I find it difficult to relate the results for combined use to those for single alcohol/drug use.

The section on limitations should also consider the age of these data.

The Discussion is clear but complex. It would benefit from a longer paragraph at the end summarizing the main take-home messages for physicians to consider in relation to their older patients. (This would also be helpful in the Abstract.)

Note: This reviewer report can be downloaded - see attached pdf file.
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

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:

Acceptable

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