Reviewer’s report

Title: Malnutrition risks and their associated factors among home-living older Chinese adults in Hong Kong: hidden problems in an affluent Chinese community

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Reviewer: Dariga U. Akasheva

Reviewer's report:

1. In general, the purpose of the work is clear. The conclusions, confirmed by the statistics, are quite to be expected. But the discussion should be more meaningful and in-depth. It should only apply to the findings of this study and not the others. This goes for the second conclusion as well. In the final multivariate logistic regression, poor appetite was the main factor that contributed to the development of malnutrition (OR 4.35, p < 0.001). Probably, this was due to comorbidity. To assess comorbidity, you use the Charlson index which does not take into account many diseases, including depression. The latter is the second most important factor after comorbidity in reducing appetite. Especially considering non-representativeness of the study population, the "affluent" people usually are not in need material things, but have psychological problems. With regard to comorbidity, you explained that comorbid patients mostly refused to participate in the study. And the comorbidity was not adjusted due to the results of the univariate analysis. In this case, there is no need to talk about the causes of poor appetite according to other studies. It is better to discuss the presence or absence of relationships and possible causes of the latter according to your observational study.

2. Authors are in the right to choose suitable tools for themselves. Therefore, the choice of the Mini Nutritional Assessment (MNA) is understandable. Actually, the MNA has been widely validated, including in China. However, while it explains your choice of the old (2003) European document (ESPEN), it doesn't explain the more recent (2012) American consensus on the issue of nutrition and malnutrition.

3. There are too many references. They should be more specific and substantive and contain citations. Due to this the number of references may be reduced. The paper contains a large number of references of normative or government documents. The topic of the paper is still gerontological, so the generally accepted opinion about the rapid economic development of China may not need a literary confirmation (reference 44).

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.

Unable to assess

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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