Reviewer’s report

Title: Can brief telephone interventions reduce caregiver burden and depression in caregivers of people with cognitive impairment? – Long-term results of the German day-care study (RCT)

Version: 0 Date: 19 May 2019

Reviewer: Hideto Takahashi

Reviewer's report:

Major comments:

As well-known, variance inflation (cluster effect) occurs in cluster-randomized trial, so if the size of each cluster is not equal, the analysis to adjust the effect is necessary like mixed effect model (to set cluster effect as random effect). Simple t-test or multiple linear regression is not appropriate either. If the authors should analyze the data to adjust cluster effect. If the authors did not consider cluster effect, describe the reason why they did not consider it.

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

Quality of written English
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None

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