Reviewer's report

Title: Body mass index and depressive symptoms in older Koreans

Version: 2 Date: 21 October 2014

Reviewer: Helen Booth

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Minor Essential Revisions
1. Methods - When was wave 3 of the KLoSA collected?
2. P5, Line 20 - Which population does the Cronbach’s alpha relate too?
3. Results - Discuss overall differences in depression score between genders (not in relation to weight status)
4. Table 2 – Define B so tables can be read as standalone
5. P8, Line 2 – what’s the basis for the sentence ‘the results of this study revealed that obesity is not good for health’?
6. P8, Line 8 - This is a cross-sectional study so it’s not possible to say BMI has an effect on depression, merely that there’s an association

Discretionary Revisions
1. P3, Lines 14-15 – do you mean moderators and mediators of the relationship between depression and weight rather than the two independently?
2. The evidence is discussed in detail but some of this could be moved to the discussion (where references are repeated) and the background shortened
3. Methods - Further information on the CES-D would be useful
4. P5, Line 20 - Which population does the Cronbach’s alpha relate too?
5. P6, Line 8 – did the Likert scale ask about physical health specifically?
6. Reverse the x axis in the figures so underweight is on the left and obese on the right?
7. Discussion - Further discussion of the clinical implications would be useful, given that the CES-D is designed for epidemiological studies

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests