Reviewer’s report

Title: Childhood sensorineural hearing loss and adult mental health up to 43 years later: Results from the HUNT study

Version: 0 Date: 30 Aug 2018

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS: To view the full report from the academic peer reviewer, please see the attached file.

REVIEWER COMMENTS FROM REPORT: Potentially a very exciting study which is, to my knowledge, without precedent in the literature. However, I have issues with the sampling, and the hearing tests conducted back in the 1950s, and the small samples. I am not sure that the study actually provides the answer we hope for.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

Firstly, why mention a sample of 32K plus, when actually it's only a small proportion of those in the actual analysis.

Also, if the hearing tests in the 1950s were less good, with higher false positive rates for example, then the authors would need to discuss this point fully. In addition, the authors inserted missing values based on some unusual judgements.

Why were those not reporting their level of education assumed to be in the lowest category? I can see no justification for this whatever.

There is also an issue with time and culture changes etc, and the nature of stress and mental health, which often respond to year on year conditions, and thus whole generations might not tell us about subsequent generations.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:

None.
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.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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