Reviewer’s report

Title: "Decision-making capacity for research participation among addicted people: a crosssectional study"

Version: 1 Date: 22 Oct 2015

Reviewer: Irma Hein

Reviewer’s report:

The authors used the comments for improvement.

Comments:

1. There are some minor language issues that could be improved. For instance, page 2 line 8: carried out at a community based …

Page 2 line 9, the authors might add: Health Centre in Spain.

Page 2 line 22: advanced cognitive impairment.

Page 4-5, lines 12-25 and 1-4: IC instead of CI, and the paragraphs need some language editing.

Page 10 line 18: transcribed.

Page 13 line 15: choose.

2. Now it reads as if all NPCs had no Axis I diagnoses (as this was an exclusion criterion), and all SUD patients did have co-morbid psychiatric disorders (table 1). Could the authors explain how this should be interpreted in light of capabilities? Could this mean that diminished capacities on Understanding and Appreciation are not evidently related to SUD, but to mental health disorders in general?

3. Table 1: An explanation of superscript a, b and c is lacking.

4. There is unclarity in the use of the word 'consent' throughout the text. E.g. page 13, lines 10, 12, 20 and 22: do the authors mean consenting, or being capable?

5. Page 13, line 19: the writing 'slightly non-significant' might be a way to conceal the result, which in fact is non-significant. Also page 15, line 22.

6. Page 15, last paragraph on living status: The authors might elucidate that living status was only associated univariately with mental capacity. There was a significant difference between NPCs and SUD patients regarding living status. Living status was therefor not included in the stepwise logistic regression model.
7. Figure 1: Preferably, the flow chart should present the eligible patients per group. This figure seems a bit unfinished.

8. Table 3: Combining the patient group and the control group does not really make sense. Comparing them would make sense. This misunderstanding is carried on through the whole article.

**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?**
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No

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