Reviewer's report

Title: Burden of frailty in the elderly population: perspectives for a public health challenge

Version: 1  
Date: 16 December 2014

Reviewer: S Hoeck

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions:

1) Title: this manuscript is mainly a review on the definition of frailty (as indicated as purpose) and does not give many ‘perspectives’ as stated in the title. Other title is needed, or include more perspectives for public health challenges. What are the main ‘perspectives for public health challenge?’ Should be better stated in the conclusion, otherwise not included in the title. Discrepancy between title and purpose of the study.

‘The purpose of this study was to review the recent literature on the definition of frailty, the burden of the disease and the challenges for public health (i.e. screening and prevention).’

Title: ‘Burden of frailty in the elderly population: perspectives for a public health challenge.’

Major Compulsory Revisions

2) In a review, the methodology should be described: research question? Literature search, terms used, years and databases included? How many articles found? How many used in the this ‘review’, and which selection criteria were used?

Minor essential revision:

3) Some examples of poor English:

Intro: “Therefore the identification of frail adult is essential.”

Main text: “As explains in the introduction”

“plateau” search other word

In general: check adverbs and adjectives

So, no clear consensus definition of frailty emerges from the literature.

The use of an instrument should always be conform to the aims for which it was designed in respect

of its characteristics [19]. (What does this mean?)

Minor essential revision:
4) Key word: nursing home?? Only frailty in nursing home populations? No. Prevalence will vary substantially. Authors give frailty prevalence on elderly living at home ‘community dwelling’.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests’