

Response Letter

Dear Sir/Ma'am

We appreciate to your thorough review and thoughtful suggestions that advance the quality of the paper to the excellent level.

Review (ID: 3287002)

- **“The authors would do well to address physical/medical problems in any of the samples in the articles review, or were these all healthy older adults samples. Were there any pre-existing psychiatric comorbidities in the samples reviewed (for example, previous history of depression, anxiety, substance abuse history) and how might these issues affect generalizability of the studies or conclusions made?”**

Response: A column specific for pre-existing condition of the various study samples was added to the Table 1. Also, characteristics of study populations was added as a sub-section in Results section. There were only a few papers that examined patients with specific disease, and most of papers selected subjects randomly; the latter approach provides generalizability.

- **“Given the international focus of this journal, the authors should address this in the paper and authors should explicate how this relates to generalizability and their conclusions.”**

Response: International or cross-cultural breadth provides evidence of generalizability. In other words, by comparing diverse cultures, demonstrating similar results, the present review supports the following statement, namely that there is an association between social isolation and behavioral symptoms with evidence of such associations across diverse population around the world (as shown in Table 1). In Table1, diverse cultural/ethnic backgrounds of study samples were added to present cultural variability of this review.

- **“Table 1 refers to a summary of 17 articles, however, only 16 are listed in the table. The texts includes a brief summary of a study [Reference 26] – it is unclear if Reference 26 should be listed in the table, or if the table should indeed contain 16 articles.”**

Response: [reference 26] was cited to explain mediating factor between loneliness and depression. However, it was excluded in table 1 because the study is not specific for older adults.

Review (ID: 2446627)

- **“We feel it would be important to address the ethnic and cultural issue too, as the social system and cultural system indeed plays an important role in these conditions.”**

Response: In Table 1, diverse cultural/ethnic backgrounds of study samples were added to present cultural variability of this review. Because of heterogeneity of the study populations in terms of cultural/ethnic backgrounds, meta-analysis was not possible in current review. However, regardless of social isolation issue, since culture can definitely influence on behavioral symptoms, such as depression, fatigue, or insomnia, we are very interested in studying this aspect in the future study with different study design.

- **“Would suggest conclusion heading and would address conclusion clearly with limitations.”**

Response: A separate conclusion section was added in the revised manuscript.

Sincerely,

Hanbyul Choi