

# Insights in Internal Medicine

Review Report

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**Article Title:** Living Alone as a Prognostic Factor of Elderly Pneumonia

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**Review Status:** Revision Required

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## Review Report

The paper by Taooka Y and co-workers studied the prognostic factors associated with mortality in elderly pneumonia, focusing on loneliness. They analyzed 272 patients > 65 years old hospitalized for pneumonia; of those, 40 died within 30 days from admission and were compared to the survivors. They found that mortality was higher in patients living alone.

This study might be of interest, however it presents the following concerns:

1. The low sample size, the monocentric study and the use of Japan Respiratory Society Guidelines for pneumonia diagnosis limit the present observation (this should be stated in the title, abstract, introduction and discussion);
2. The statistical model is not well defined. If the Authors apply a multivariate logistic regression model, adjustments and co-variables need to be defined. A forest plot should be useful to graphically present the prognostic factors. Moreover, is it possible to apply a Cox regression analysis to their data? Finally, to assess the impact of loneliness on mortality due to pneumonia, a conceptual model as suggested by Calvillo-King L et al. (J Gen Intern Med, 2013) should be considered;
3. English grammar and language need to be revised by a native speaker.

I have read this submission. I believe that I have an appropriate level of expertise to confirm that it is of an acceptable scientific standard, however I have significant reservations, as outlined above.