Supplementary material

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| **Table S1. Kappa-values for inter-rater reliability for variables utilized to diagnose major depression, based on 169 dual ratings in the Gothenburg H70 Birth Cohort Studies** |
|  | κ |
| Increased sleep | 0.85 |
| Life-weariness | 0.80 |
| Pessimistic thoughts | 0.75 |
| Reduced appetite | 0.74 |
| Depressed mood | 0.72 |
| Lassitude | 0.71 |
| Indecisiveness | 0.70 |
| Reduced interest | 0.68 |
| Fatigue | 0.66 |
| Concentration difficulties | 0.65 |
| Reduced sleep | 0.65 |
| Reduced speech | 0.55 |
| Depressed mood (observed) | 0.51 |
| Restlessness/agitation | 0.46 |
| Inability to think | 0.43 |
| Distractability | 0.41 |
| Reduced motor activity | 0.39 |
| *Average* | 0.63 |

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| **Table S2. Linear regression models of changes in MADRSa-scores in three cohorts of 85-year-oldsb** |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|  | Model 1c |  | Model 2d |  | Model 3e |
|  | B | 95% Confidence interval |  | B | 95% Confidence interval |  | B | 95% Confidence interval |
|  |  | Lower | Upper |  |  | Lower | Upper |  |  | Lower | Upper |
| Cohort 2008 vs 1986 (N=781) | -1.52 | -2.55 | -0.49 |  | -1.45 | -2.52 | -0.38 |  | -1.74 | -2.78 | -0.70 |
| Cohort 2015 vs 1986 (N=669) | -1.44 | -2.02 | -0.87 |  | -1.09 | -1.68 | -0.50 |  | -1.17 | -1.74 | -0.60 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| aMontgomery Åsberg Depression Rating Scale |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| bFor inclusion, participants must have Mini Mental State Examination scores ≥24. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| cSimple linear regression |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| dMultiple linear regression including: Sex, long-term care facility residence, education beyond mandatory, lost partner within 5 years, no current partner, and feelings of loneliness. |
| eMultiple linear regression including factors in model 2, and also: Poor self-rated health, dependence in any activities of daily living, past month pain, and number of somatic diseases.B=Point changes in MADRS-scores. |