We identified 55 cases of dementia among 327 people who scored at or below the cut-off on the MMSE. The one case identified from the 10% of the negatively screened population was counted as one among the ten cases in the negatively screened population of 1607 (i.e. 65 cases in 1934 people aged 65 years and above).

The assessment of risk factors based on retrospective accounts of the carers and an inadequate number of controls for calculating the odds ratios can be considered methodological limitations of the study. The prevalence of dementia increases proportionately with age ($\chi^2=40.29$, d.f.=5, $P<0.001$). This $\chi^2$ value was not given in the text. The number of patients with Alzheimer’s disease was 30. The error in the article is regretted.

**Measures for mental health outcomes**

I was very interested to read the article by Salvi et al (2005) on choosing the measure for mental health outcome assessments. Readers might be interested in a comparison of the Camberwell Assessment of Need Short Appraisal Schedule (CANSAS; Phelan et al, 1995) and Health of the Nation Outcome Scale (HoNOS; Wing et al, 1998) scores. One thousand pairs of HoNOS and CANSAS scores were recorded by four trainees and myself. Figure 1 shows the means with standard errors of the HoNOS values associated with each CANSAS score.

The higher CANSAS scores (13–22) were not encountered very often and accounted for only 3.5% of scores. The large standard errors are because some of the CANSAS scores occurred infrequently. HoNOS and CANSAS scores are related in the lower CANSAS range of 1–8, the most common range, accounting for 79% of the scores. Up to a CANSAS score of 12 ($n=955$) there is a reasonably close correlation with the HoNOS scores. The Spearman coefficient is 0.564, indicating that the correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (two-tailed).

The use of CANSAS is becoming established in Lothian mental health services. CANSAS is very useful as a needs assessment tool for individual patients. Its face

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**Fig. 1** Comparison of 1000 pairs of CANSAS and HoNOS scores. Bars represent two standard errors above and below the mean. CANSAS, Camberwell Assessment of Need Short: Appraisal Schedule; HoNOS, Health of the Nation Outcome Scale.