Reviewers report

Title: Muscle fiber-type distribution predicts weight gain and unfavorable left ventricular geometry: a 19 year follow-up study

Version: 1 Date: 17 August 2005

Reviewer: Thomas KAHAN

Reviewers report:

General

This paper is well written. The methods appear sound, the results are presented in a clear way, and the discussion deals with the important findings of the study.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. There are no major issues.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. In the figures, the ordinate and the abscissa should not meet as they do not start in origo. Second, decimal points should by used on the axes, not decimal commas. Finally, end systolic is misspelled in figure 3.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

1. It is unfortunate that only 40 out of the 63 men are included in the follow; the remaining 22 were excluded as they were on antihypetensive treatment (one was excluded due to a diagnosis of cardiomyopathy). The exclusion of 22 subjects who were on antihypertensive treatment introduces a potentially important selection bias. This ought to be discussed.
2. The authors are advised to analyse the results with the hypertensive men treated with drugs included as well. Antihypertensive treatment could be included in the multivariate analyses as a co-factor. The analyses with only untreated subjects would than act to support to the findings obtained in the large population.
3. Indexation of LV mass is somewhat sensitive to overweight, and different methods of indexation may behave differently. To make the case the authors should consider to include also a method of LV mass indexation other and LV mass/BSA.

Which journal?: Appropriate or potentially appropriate for BMC Medicine: an article of importance in its field

What next?: Accept for publication in BMC Medicine after discretionary revisions

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.