Reviewer's report

Title: Under- treatment and under diagnosis of hypertension: A serious problem in the United Arab Emirates

Version: 2 Date: 18 April 2006
Reviewer: Michel Joffres

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined?

This seems to be a new question in the United Arab Emirates, and well defined. It is not clear whether the 2000 national survey had similar measurements.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work?

A few points need clarification.

Total numbers are different in abstract and methods/results sections. Is this due to missing variables?

It is not clear why individuals with secondary hypertension and known kidney disease or heart problems were excluded. This is not usually done in surveys.

“Each individual was interviewed by a healthcare professional, using a one-page questionnaire, in Arabic or English”. How were the questions validated? Was there back translation?

The average of sitting and standing BP was used to classify BP. The usual criteria includes only sitting BP.

Waist circumference might be a better measurement than waist hip ratio.

3. Are the data sound and well controlled?

Even though these data come from convenient samples, with the usual limitations toward generalization, they provide useful information to improve primary and secondary prevention.

Defining the terms “Incident hypertensives” in tables seems desirable.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?

These findings could be better contrasted with levels of hypertension awareness and treatment among aware hypertensives in other studies.

Limitations should be clearly stated since this is a convenient sample, with a different BP methodology and different subpopulations that might not represent the total population.

6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
The abstract mentions a stratified sample, but the method section does not clarify how stratification was performed.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests