Reviewer’s report

Title: Ethnic difference in blood pressure among youth in Paramaribo, Suriname

Version: 1 Date: 7 November 2008

Reviewer: Jeetesh Patel

Reviewer’s report:

1. change the title.
2. Get someone to proof read the grammar
3. Abstract: In non-industrialised countries there is a wealth of information on hypertension, paediatric prehypertension and raised blood pressure (e.g., salt sensitivity in South Asians, hypertension in the Caribbean, a recent meta analysis by the OAC of hypertension across countries in the Asia Pacific Rim). Hence, it is inappropriate to suggest there is limited evidence in this context. Define the ethnic groups and the method of sampling. It is not clear how many from each ethnic group were used with regards to matching. The conclusion does not follow from any hypothesis that is presented in the manuscript. It is not clear whether social differences between groups were investigated.
4. The introduction does not lead to any clear hypothesis for this work, nor are the clinical and scientific implications discussed. Altogether, this is a poor review of existing knowledge in the setting of paediatric hypertension and prehypertension.
5. Methods need more details throughout, and terms such as SBP and DBP appear without warning. What was the calculation for power? What was the social status and ethnic mix of the aforementioned schools? How were BP and anthropometry measures standardised?
6. The increase of BP with age is not only reported elsewhere, but this physiological process is the basis for BP by age and height tertiles used across the world to define paediatric hypertension. Hence, this is not novel by the slightest.
7. It is not clear whether variations in BP can be explained by BMI and other factors such as social status rather than ethnicity per se. Multivariate linear and logistical analyses are needed.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

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