Reviewer's report

Title: The use of fasting vs. non-fasting triglyceride concentration for estimating the prevalence of high LDL-cholesterol and metabolic syndrome in population surveys

Version: 1 Date: 18 February 2011

Reviewer: Irene Gazi

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Major compulsory revisions
1. Page 8, section labeled “Effect of triglyceride correction on the prevalence of high LDL-cholesterol” : The authors should report the p values between the various percentages according to which the stratification for high LDL-C was conducted. The same applies for the section labeled “Effect of triglyceride correction on the prevalence of the metabolic syndrome”.
2. Maybe an additional table showing the prevalence of the metabolic syndrome according to various Tg values and definitions and the p values between these proportions is needed.
3. The final 4 lines of last paragraph of the discussion section regarding apoB levels is not needed, mostly because the authors do not use apoB levels nowhere in their paper. If an implication is proposed, it should be clearly stated.

Minor essentials revisions
1. Abstract, background: this part should explain the basis of the present study, i.e. previous work that explains why such a study would be useful. What the authors state is the aim of the study.
2. Abstract, conclusions: It is not clear where these percentages come from. If they come from the removal of the aforementioned percentages in the results section, it should be clearly stated.
3. Page 5, last line: triglycerides already abbreviated as Tg. Same throughout text
4. Page 7, first line in results: what does this sentence mean?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

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