Reviewer's report

Title: The effect of educational level on bone mineral density in postmenopausal women

Version: 1 Date: 28 March 2004
Reviewer: Perla Werner

Reviewer's report:

General

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

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

Gur et al. The effect of educational level on bone mineral density in postmenopausal women

This manuscript addresses an interesting topic which has received scant attention in the literature: the relationship between educational level and osteoporosis-related variables. Several minor essential revisions are necessary:

1. Introduction: The rationale for study could be expanded.
2. Introduction: Appropriate references should be added to several sentences.
3. Subjects and methods: Additionally information should be provided regarding the sample: were the participants consecutive visits to a clinic? If yes, what clinic? were there any refusals?
4. Subjects and methods: How much time after the first visit and the DXA examination, elapsed until the follow up interview?
5. Please provide reference for the Medos form.
6. The assessment and categorization for smokers and non-smokers appears twice.
7. Results: Please provide reference to the appropriate table.
8. Discussion: The second sentence of the Discussion (lines 2 - 4 in the section) is unclear.
9. The study by Werner et al. in Maturitas 2003, 46(4):283 - 294, could be discussed as a study assessing relationships between education and calcium intake.
10. The paragraph starting: Though the effect of educational level on bone density…. Is unclear.
11. Alternative explanations to the effects of educational level should be discussed, such as greater access to sources of knowledge, etc.

Finally, the manuscript needs careful editing for its English, especially in the Abstract, and Discussion sections.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests: