Reviewer's report

Title: Trends in the prevalence and management of diagnosed type 2 diabetes 1994-2001 in England and Wales

Version: 1 Date: 20 August 2004

Reviewer: Per Wändell

Reviewer's report:

General

This is an important study of great interest. The population base is large and the study is well performed.

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

1. The authors have not addressed the changed criteria for diabetes diagnosis from 1998. However, the increase in prevalence is more marked after 1998 (as seen in the figures), which probably is a sign of the changed diagnostic criteria.

2. The authors claim that the worsened metabolic control is due to increasing obesity among the diabetic subjects. Interestingly, a Swedish study showed an improved metabolic control, despite increasing obesity, and unchanged blood pressure. This contradicts the conclusion by the authors, i.e. that the worse metabolic control is due to increasing obesity.

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

3. Mechanisms behind the increased prevalence of diabetes should be discussed (a comparison with Swedish and Danish studies could be of great value).
4. References: rather few, more references could be needed regarding the points mentioned above.
5. Tables and figures: the text is too sparse and needs to be more informative.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
None