Author's response to reviews

Title: Ethnic differences in the association between waist-to-height ratio and albumin-creatinine ratio: the observational SUNSET study

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Version: 3 Date: 28 March 2012

Author's response to reviews:

Amsterdam, 28 march 2012

Dear dr Chap,

We ould like to thank you again for the opportunity to revise our manuscript. We have changed the text according to the reviewer’s suggestions. and have highlighted the changes in the attached manuscript. Moreover, we have made some changes to the format to ensure that the manuscript conforms to the journal style.

We sincerely hope we have adressed all concerns and look forward to a hopefully positive response to this version of the manuscript.

Kind regards, on behalf of all authors,

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Reviewer 2

The manuscript is much improved. Some corrections and clarifications are needed.

We are content with the fact that the reviewer finds the manuscript much improved. We have addressed the additional comments below.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
Abstract, Conclusions, Page 3 and Page 15, Conclusions: The study did not find a statistically significant difference in the association of WHtR with ethnicity (Table 4). A statement can be made: Our study supports global use of WHtR for risk assessment of albuminuria across ethnic groups.

As suggested, we have added a statement that our study seems to support global use of WHtR in relation to ACR across ethnic groups to the conclusions of the abstract and the main text.

Page 10 Results: Mean waist to height ratio and albumin creatinine ratio, first sentence. The statement is not correct. Table 1 shows that the mean WHtR of Hindustani-Surinamese and African-Surinamese women were higher than Dutch women. The mean WHtR of Hindustani-Surinamese men was higher than Dutch men. The mean WHtR of African-Surinamese men was not higher than Dutch men.

We have corrected this by specifying the results that it was the WHtR of Hindustani Surinamese men and women and African Surinamese women only.

Page 10. Results: Mean waist to height ratio and albumin creatinine ratio: This statement is not correct: The prevalence of albuminuria did not differ across the groups. In fact table 1 shows a difference in women. The correct statement is: The prevalence of albuminuria did not differ in men. The prevalence of albuminuria was higher in Hindustani-Surinamese and African-Surinamese women than Dutch women.

This statement was correct, as it was referring to men only (p>0.05 in men). The comparison for women was made in the last sentence of that paragraph: ‘A similar pattern was observed for the prevalence of albuminuria.’ To clarify that we were referring to men, we have added ‘among men’ to the first statement.

Please add tables to the end of the manuscript, tables should not be additional files. In the current manuscript a click to additional files will open all four tables. If the author adds the tables to the end of the document, for example a click to Table 2 will open Table 2, not all four tables.

We have added the tables to the end of the document, as requested.

I have some suspicion that there may be some mistakes in tables. Table 1: Secondary, Lower vocational, higher vocational are in bold but no significant post-hoc test result was provided. In secondary education Hindustani-Surinamese men (42.1%) and Dutch men (21.9%), in higher vocational or more Hindustani-Surinamese men (9.7%) and Dutch men (40.8%)
look very different. In higher vocational or more Hindustani-Surinamese women (9.8%) and Dutch women (%33.3) look very different. Are the differences statistically significant?

In the post hoc tests the overall distribution of education (as a variable with 4 categories) was compared between the groups. These results were provided in the table. We have removed the '-' before the individual answer categories, to avoid the suggestion that these were separate variables.

Explain in footnote primary, secondary, lower vocational and higher vocational education in years. The education system of each country is different and years may give better insight to an international reader.

As suggested, we have added the years of education to the footnote.

No heading was given to the row above Type 2 diabetes. The numbers seem similar to BMI.

We appreciate that the reviewer has spotted this redundant row. We have removed it from the table.

Mean waist to height ratio of African Surinamese men was 0.52* and Dutch men 0.53. Confidence intervals were close. Are they really different? Are the differences statistically significant?

The means differed significantly (p=0.0231). Therefore, no changes were made.

Waist to height ratio >0.50. Is there any difference between Hindustani-Surinamese women (87.2%) or African-Surinamese women (81.2%) and Dutch women (54%)? Are the differences statistically significant?

This variable had mistakenly not been included in the post-hoc tests. The differences were indeed statistically significant. We have added these results to the table.

Mean ACR: Is there any difference between African-Surinamese men (0.26) and Dutch men (0.24)? Are the differences statistically significant?

Like the mean logACR, the median ACR did not differ between the African Surinamese and the Dutch. We incorrectly marked the figure with an asterisk. We apologise, and the mistake has been corrected.

Table 2: Model 3 and Sex, confidence interval, add space after -, -0.35- -0.06. It is not clearly understandable.

We have added a space.

Additional file 2. Please name it as Table 5.

We have added the Additional file as Table 3, as it was referred to directly after
table 2. We have also adjusted the numbers of all the tables in the text.

Additional file 2. Change p-value#0,.05 to 0.05 please remove comma.
Removed, as requested.

Minor Essential Revisions:
Abstract: Page 2. Results section: remove paragraph between: hypertension.
Among the Hindustani
The paragraph was removed.

Response and Participation, Page 7: change with an density to with a density.
This was corrected.

Response and Participation, Page 8: Please change: ‘As compared to those who
were left in the study, those who did not undergo a physical examination’ to ‘As
compared to those whose data were analyzed, those who did not undergo a
physical examination’
This was changed as suggested.

Results: Page 10: Characteristics of the study population: Last sentence: Change
to: Type 2 diabetes (in men and women) and hypertension (women only) were
more prevalent among Hindustani-Surinamese and African-Surinamese than
Dutch participants.

Discussion, Page 12, Change to: The difference between this study and our
study may be related to the fact that our study also included persons without type
2 diabetes.
Done, as requested.

Reference 9: Should be J Hum Hypertens
The ‘of’ between J and Hum was removed.

Reference 12: Please add comma after Nyumura I,
This omission was corrected.

Discretionary Revisions: None.