Reviewer's report

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

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 4 March 2012

**Reviewer:** Ahmet Selçuk Can

**Reviewer's report:**

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

**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.

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.

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.

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.

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?

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.

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

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?

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?

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

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

Additional file 2. Please name it as Table 5.
Additional file 2. Change p-value#0,.05 to 0.05 please remove comma.

Minor Essential Revisions:
Abstract: Page 2. Results section: remove paragraph between: hypertension. Among the Hindustani
Response and Participation, Page 7: change with an density to with a density. 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’
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.
Reference 9: Should be J Hum Hypertens
Reference 12: Please add comma after Nyumura I,

Discretionary Revisions: None.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.