Reviewer's report

Title: Sex, age and height: factors should be considered simultaneously for developing blood pressure tables for Chinese adolescents

Version: 3 Date: 31 October 2013

Reviewer: Joy C Ebenebe

Reviewer's report:

A. General Comment.

The increasing scourge of hypertension among the populace is well known. The desire to have accurate and user friendly formats for reliable screening, detection and diagnosis of hypertension in children is equally widespread. This study therefore generally has some merit especially with regards to the Chinese population. It has shown that the influence of height in the development of blood pressure table should not be ignored or subsumed under that of age and or sex. The study also has meta-analysis relevance.

There are however, some issues that need to be addressed by the authors as follows:

B. Minor Essential Revisions

2. Abstract
   Background: Rephrase the second sentence.
   Conclusion: Rephrase

3. Main body background: ….frequently undiagnosed. Do you mean underdiagnosed?
   2nd paragraph, line 2: In the year 2010. In 2010 should be okay
   Line 7: Change ‘publishing to published’
   Line 8: change ’much simpler” to ‘simpler’
   Line 12: “of solely consideration”- Rephrase

4. Methodology: This sufficiently addresses the research question. It is necessary that you give the names of instruments (weighing scales, stadiometers, and sphygmomanometers) used in the study and their manufacturers with sensitivities/accuracies. Most mercury in glass thermometers available in clinical practice measure to the nearest 2mmHg and not 1mmHg as indicated by you. It is now commonly recommended to use the 5th korotkoff sound as against the 4th used by you. Is there any reason for your decision?
   Statistical Analysis: - change ‘were test’ to, “were tested”
   Change” undiagnose” to “underdiagnosed”
   Precise to “precisely”
Conclusions: Rephrase line 2

C. Discretionary Revisions
1. Title: This portrays the objective of the study but after correction of syntax there may still be need for fine-tuning. My suggestion:
Blood pressure tables for Chinese adolescents: justification for incorporation of important influencing factors of height, age and gender in the tables.

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

Declaration of competing interests:
I DECLARE THAT I HAVE NO COMPETING INTERESTS