Reviewer’s report

Title: Elevated arterial blood pressure and body mass index among Nigerian preschool children population.

Version: 1 Date: 22 October 2013

Reviewer: Kotsedi Daniel Monyeki

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The main objective of this research was to ascertain the prevalence of elevated blood pressure in preschool children in Enugu Metropolis, South Nigeria and also to determine any correlation with some factors like the body mass index, urinalysis findings, family history, gender, age and socioeconomic class. The research concluded that all elevated BP had protein-free urine and no hematuria. This research has merit in that it aims to uproot the dynamic of chronic diseases of lifestyle from preschool children.

Major comments

1. Given the large sample size in this study the inter and intra tester technical error of measurements for anthropometric and blood pressure measurements could shed more light on the accuracy of the data.

2. Statistical analysis: -1. On page 2 and 4, the authors reported the association of hypertension with proteinuria or hematuria. It will be interesting for the readers to know how the confounders and effect modifiers were accounted for in the current study.

3. It will be interesting for other readers to see the probability of having hypertension, overweight and renal diseases later in life in this population.

Minor comments

1. Abstract needs to be rewritten. Reflect key findings and conclusions and not in its current form.

2. How was the socio-economic status questionnaire validated to this population?

3. How was socio-economic status classified as upper, muddle and lower?

4. On page 3 the author reported that blood pressure was taken at an interval of 60 minutes. Was it for each subject for three measurements taken?

5. I suggest table 1-4 be merged into one and also table 6 to 7.

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'