Reviewer’s report

Title: The Problem of Adolescent Obesity in Hong Kong: A Cross-Sectional Observation Study

Version: 1 Date: 29 August 2007

Reviewer: Abdulrahman Musaiger

Reviewer’s report:

General

Abstract: The abstract needs major modification, the methods and results are not written according to scientific basis.

Background (Introduction): This section is not written properly. There is no literature review on the prevalence of obesity in Hong Kong and other related countries. Also, the author should justify the purpose of carrying out this study.

Methods: Again this section requires major modification. There is no proper elaboration on sampling design. There is no need to give details on the definition of overweight and obesity using several criteria.

Results: This section is poorly presented. For adolescents, the prevalence of overweight and obesity should be presented by age and sex and not by total prevalence (as height, weight, BMI are presented in Table 2). The sample for age 11 should be omitted due to small sample size which will not be representative of the actual size of the adolescents at age 11 years.

Discussion: Unfortunately, this section does not discuss the results. For e.g., the first page (page 7) of the discussion is needless as it discusses a different topic. The discussion should focus on the difference in the prevalence of overweight and obesity using various criteria, comparison with previous studies and the magnitude of obesity among this age group in Hong Kong.

References: There is a lack of several references using similar methodology and age groups. These references would be helpful for the purpose of comparison.

Title: This title is improper and it can be for e.g., Obesity among adolescents in Hong Kong using various criteria.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
What next?: Reject because scientifically unsound

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'