Reviewer’s report

Title: Development and tracking of central patterns of subcutaneous fat of rural South African children aged 5 to 15 years: Ellisras Longitudinal Study

Version: 3 Date: 14 September 2009

Reviewer: Vincent Jaddoe

Reviewer’s report:

Their revision letter is quite general and lacks specific answers. However, the manuscript has been improved. Although the authors state that they have contacted a native English speaker or writer, the current version is still not written well. This is a major problem for presenting their results. Since their results are of interest for BMC Pediatrics, this should be solved.

They did not address the following issues:
1) Tracking of BMI, they refer to another report which gives prevalence rates for stunting and wasting. However, for the present paper information about the tracking of BMI might be of interest independent of the cross sectional analyses.
2) No multiple missing value imputation was performed.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'