Author's response to reviews

Title: Worksite Screening Programs for Predicting the Development of Metabolic Syndrome in Middle-Aged Employees: a Five-Year Follow-up Study

Authors:

Yu-Cheng Lin (gphinx@gmail.com)
Jong-Dar Chen (d97841005@ntu.edu.tw)
Su-Huey Lo (tyghinx@mail.tygh.gov.tw)
Pau-Chung Chen (pchen@ntu.edu.tw)

Version: 2 Date: 4 November 2010

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Enclosed please find attached the revised version (manuscript ID 4185282064307892: BMC revised.doc) of our manuscript entitled "Worksite Screening Programs for Predicting the Development of Metabolic Syndrome in Middle-Aged Employees: a Five-Year Follow-up Study" (Originally entitled "Efficiently Utilize Worksite Screening Programs for Predicting the Development of Metabolic Syndrome in Middle-Aged Employees: a Five-Year Follow-up Study") which has been submitted for consideration of publication in *BMC Public Health*.

Also, please find following responses to the reviewers. We responded point by point to the reviewers’ questions and comments (seven responses to Reviewer 1st; three responses to Reviewer 2nd). The manuscript has been revised according to reviewers’ suggestions.

We would like to express our appreciation for the insightful comments of the reviewers, which have helped us to improve the manuscript considerably. We hope that this revised version will be acceptable for publication.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

**Pau-Chung Chen**, MD, PhD.

Institute of Occupational Medicine and Industrial Hygiene, College of Public Health, National Taiwan University, Room 733, No. 17, Syujhou Road, Taipei 10055, Taiwan

d97841005@ntu.edu.tw; **Telephone**: 886-3-3699-721 ext 2415; **Fax**: +886-2-2358-2402
For Reviewer 1st:

Seven responses for each comment, point by point:

□ The study data are from Taiwan, which leads us to assume that the population is mainly of Asian origin. Specifying the ethnicity of the workers surveyed, either in the text or in Table 1, would be helpful

Response 1:
We thank for this comment; and we specified Taiwanese population in Abstract (Page 2, Line 8), Background (Page 3, Line 17), titles for Table 1 and Table 2, in red characters.

□ In 'Methods', 'Definitions' first paragraphs, two definitions of 'habitual drinker' are provided and would need to be condensed into one.

Response 2:
We thank for this suggestion; and we made revisions for descriptions of 'habitual drinker' in “Definition” (Page 5, Line 22~Page6 Line 1, in red characters).

□ In 'Methods', 'Definitions', second paragraph, the authors have used ethnic specific criteria for the definition of metabolic syndrome based on ATP-III. However, the definition of pre-metabolic syndrome needs to be more clearly specified as well as the reference to hyperinsulinemia in the paragraph. There would need to mention that the state of pre-metabolic syndrome is less well agreed upon than metabolic syndrome itself.

Response 3:
We thank for this comment. We deleted the statements of pre-metabolism. We also revised the statements of hyperinsulinemia and the references of hyperinsulinemia (Page 6, Line 16~17, in red characters; Ref 11, 12 in red characters).
In 'Discussion', fourth paragraph, I would suggest deleting the reference to Barkis et al as it refers to kidney disease and not to the metabolic syndrome.

Response 4:
We thank for this suggestion, and we deleted this reference and the statements.

Discretionary revisions:

Title: I would suggest using 'Efficiently utilizing...' instead of 'utilize'

Response 5:
We thank for this suggestion, and we made a revision for our title.

In 'Results', first paragraph, I would suggest deleting the word 'totally' from 'Within a five year interval,...'

Response 6:
We thank for this suggestion, and we made a revision for our text (Page 8, Line 2, in red characters).

In 'Results', second paragraph, I would suggest replacing 'insignificantly' with 'non-significantly'

Response 7:
We thank for this suggestion, and we made a revision for our text (Page 8, Line 23, in red characters).

~ Thanks for Your Advices ~
For Reviewer 2
d:

Three responses for each comment, point by point:

☐ The authors should cite and discuss more studies in the general population that evaluated risk factors for metabolic syndrome.
Response 1:
We agree with the Reviewer’s opinion, we cited several studies for general population focusing on evaluation of risk for metabolic syndrome; also, we made revisions in Background and Discussion. (Page 3, Line 4—7; Page 10, Line 6—7, in red characters).

☐ Where any patients receiving antihypertensive or lipid-lowering agents? Where these patients considered as fulfilling the diagnostic criteria of elevated blood pressure and low HDL/high TG?
Response 2:
We thank for this very important comment; however, for no sufficient treatment evidences collected from present data, we left these to be clarified in the further investigation. We addressed these limitations and added 3 references in the paragraph of Discussion (Page12, Line 2—5, in red characters).

☐ Please delete "Efficiently Utilize" from the title.
Response 3:
We thank for this suggestion, and we made a revision for our title.

~ Thanks for Your Advices ~