Reviewer's report

Title: The association of education with body mass index and waist circumference in the EPIC-PANACEA study

Version: 1 Date: 31 December 2010

Reviewer: Jean Dallongeville

Reviewer's report:

This study examine the association of education with body mass index (BMI) and waist circumference (WC) in the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition (EPIC).

Minor comments.

Although SES and education tend to correlate there is no perfect overlap between the two indicators. In the introduction of the manuscript the authors seem not to distinguish SES and education in their report of NHANES 1999/2000 data.

Similarly, in the discussion the authors mention that they "used education as an indicator of SES". I am not sure whether education is an appropriate surrogate of SES. There are (I don't recall exactly the reference) indications that education and other indicators of SES, such as occupation or income, are independently associated with obesity and gender. I recommend to suppress this part of the discussion (starting "Education was used…..to dissatisfaction in wome as well as in men") that is misleading.

Would you please check the legend (or the numbering) of the figures. I believe there is an inversion of gender.

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 have no competing interests