Reviewer's report

Title: Higher body mass index may advance asthma among adolescents with pre-asthmatic symptoms: a prospective cohort study

Version: 1 Date: 27 January 2011

Reviewer: Roya Kelishadi

Reviewer's report:

This longitudinal study investigated the role of body mass index (BMI) with increased risk of developing physician-diagnosed asthma during 12-month follow-up among 4,052 healthy Taiwanese adolescents. Girls, but not boys, with higher BMI had an increased risk of developing asthma.

Major points:
- The selection criteria is not clear, how were the study participants selected from among the larger number of the cohort participants?
- In Table 4, the confidence intervals reported for the Model1 are not consistent with the significant p value.
- The Discussion section should be stronger with more interpretation of the study findings.

Minor points:
- The Introduction section is too long.
- The Abstract should be limited to 250 words, and should be formatted according to the journal style.
- There are some typos.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.