Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 10 February 2011

Reviewer: Marly A Cardoso

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript addresses an important issue in public health using longitudinal data. A total of 4,052 adolescents with undiagnosed asthma-like symptoms at baseline were re-examined after a 12-month follow-up. The manuscript is well-organized and I have only a two questions for revision:

1. Physical activity assessment: on page 9 the authors have mentioned the use of "standardized questions regarding exercise frequency (seldom, sometimes, regularly)". As a potential confounding factor for the association between BMI and asthma, the accuracy of those questions on exercise frequency (which exercises?) should be reported and discussed. The limitations of such assessment should be described in the Discussion Section.

2. Table 2: I would suggest to present these results according to the outcome.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.