Reviewer's report

**Title:** Modifiable risk factors for overweight and obesity in children and adolescents from Sao Paulo, Brazil

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 7 April 2011

**Reviewer:** Demosthenes Panagiotakos

**Reviewer's report:**

In this study authors investigated the current prevalence of overweight and obesity in children living in Brazil and tried to identify lifestyle behaviours associated with increased risk of obesity in young Brazilians.

In general, is a very interesting work about the modifiable risk factors that are associated with fat accretion in children.

We have some suggestions:

1) Please number lines

2) It would be probably worth mentioning the statistical test used and the exact number results in the abstract section

3) Page 2, line 12: ‘less developed north-eastern regions’, how less or more developed regions are defined?

4) Page 15, line 16. Authors correctly mention that causality cannot be implied due to the cross-sectional nature of this study. But was there any information collected from the subjects regarding changes in their diet recently or during the last years? Or for example, where any children given medical/professional advice in order to lose weight?

5) Page 7, methods. Could you please give more details about the questionnaire, the possible answers or how the portions were defined?

6) Page 7, methods again. Authors state that there was a pilot study regarding the reliability and the validity of the questionnaire. Are these results published anywhere?

7) Where there any questions regarding milk, fish, meat or cereal consumptions?

8) Page 9, line 5. Sedentary behaviour. How this is defined? At which level? (hours /day? METS? times/week?)

9) Finally it would be interesting to know if there were any children with very low weight.

**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.