Reviewer’s report

Title: Waist Circumference and Risk of Elevated Blood Pressure in Children: A Cross-Sectional Study

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Reviewer: Fung-Chang Sung

Reviewer’s report:

This article analyzed the association between waist circumference (WC) and elevated blood pressure (EBP). It is well known that WC is a better indicator than BMI in predicting hypertension. However, there are limited studies focused on young children for this issue. This article is probably the first one to apply WC to predict EBP in Asian children 7 years of age. The question posed by the authors is well defined and the study methods are appropriate and well described. However, this article can be further improved:

1. Table 1 clearly describes the association between WC and all other factors. HC shows competence in the association with hypertension in Table 2. Table 2 can be deleted. However, is it possible to compare the ability of predicting EBP between WC and HC? It would be fine to develop a table demonstrating the association with OR. Then the Table 2 can be replaced with this one.

2. Table 3. Using WC to predict EBP may be different between boys and girls. If this is true, please analyze the data by gender for this table. By the way, if the results of new Table 2 show that HC is as good as WC in the prediction, how Table 3 should be developed?

Figure 1. It may be more appropriate to show “Prevalence of EBP by quartile of WC for boys and girls separately.” Similarly, if the results of new Table 2 show that HC is as good as WC in the prediction, is it possible to incorporate the information of HC in Figure 1?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.