Reviewer's report

**Title:** Prevalence of cardiovascular disease and risk factors in a rural district of Beijing, China: a population-based survey of 58,308 residents

**Version:** 4  **Date:** 21 November 2011

**Reviewer:** Perviz Asaria

**Reviewer's report:**

This is now clearer and the authors have outlined the methods better. It is an important contribution to the data available for China.

This study should be published if the first two points can be addressed:

1) This study is based on self-reported prevalence of CHD and stroke - the self reported prevalence is then verified and modified by medical record review. The initial fact of this being self reported prevalence is still unclear from the current methods (It is in fact, just as 'self reported' as the diabetes prevalence except that they have got round the problem of 'over-reporting' by medical record verification. However this does not get round the problem of 'under-reporting'). It is not unreasonable for the authors to use record-verified self-reported prevalence but they need to be upfront about this. They may also wish to mention this in the limitations.

Previous studies in a British cohort showed that 50% of men with definite infarct on the ECG did not report CHD by questionnaire - see Shaper et al. "Recall of diagnosis by men with ischaemic heart disease" in British Heart Journal 1984....this figure may vary from population to population...but it may be a factor affecting the results of this study).

2) The age standardised prevalence of CHD is now reported as being higher in women over 65 than in men (although for stroke it seems the opposite is true). Is this CHD prevalence true or is it the result of some sort of differential artifact of over/under reporting?

Note that CHD mortality is higher in men than in women in almost every country in the world and that CHD prevalence is higher in men than in women in England in every age group including over 75. See http://www.bhf.org.uk/heart-health/statistics/morbidity/living-with-heart-disease.aspx (morbidity data).

I am not sure of CHD prevalence in other countries - but the finding of higher rates in women than men does seem a bit odd.

If true, the reported figure of 12.5% in women compared to 9.1% in men is worth commenting on in the findings with some possible explanations.

3) The clarity of the text would benefit from a little proof-reading/restructuring of
the English.

**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:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests