Reviewer's report

Title: Cardiovascular diseases and Type 2 Diabetes in Bangladesh: A review of studies between 1995 and 2010.

Version: 1 Date: 12 January 2012

Reviewer: Itamar Santos

Reviewer's report:

The authors improved the article methodology and presentation, making it more clear to the reader. However, statistical analysis is still poor, and this precludes acceptance of the paper in the present version. I think the authors would benefit from the help of a statistician.

Major revisions

1. To analyze prevalence data across studies, the authors simply calculated the median prevalence, assuming that studies with poor, moderate and high quality, irrespective of the number of subjects included in each one, should be equally represented in the statistical model. There are more accurate techniques to make this inference, and these techniques should be applied.

2. The most important finding of the study, in my opinion, is the fact that prevalence of cardiovascular disease is rising in Bangladesh. However, it is impossible to determine a secular trend without estimating the probability that differences were determined by chance. This can only be reached by adequate statistical analysis. It would also be advisable to evaluate if conclusions are consistent when evaluating studies separated by their methodology similarity (for example, analyzing separately studies that took into account use of medication for HTN diagnosis and those which did not).

Minor revisions:

1. Please review lines 61-65, as writing can be a bit improved.

2. In line 292, “data not shown” is not appropriate, as this come from revised studies. Those studies must be referenced.

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, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.