Reviewer's report

Title: Combined television viewing and computer use and mortality from all-causes and diseases of the circulatory system among adults in the United States

Version: 2 Date: 17 November 2011

Reviewer: David W Dunstan

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revision:
The Author States that "The reasons for the dissonant findings are not entirely clear. All four studies used self-reported information to assess screen time although the questions in the studies differed." One of the other differences between some of these four studies and the present study is the wording of the TV question. For example, the AusDiab study explicity requested respondents to report the time spent where this was the primary activity being undertaken. This therefore did not include the time when the television was on, but other tasks were being undertaken (eg: preparing meals). With this approach it is assumed that the TV viewing time encompasses only the time spent sitting watching the TV. In the present study, this distinction was not made, thereby making it possible for some of the TV time recorded to include time where non-seated TV watching was undertaken. Could the author please speculate on whether this may have contributed to the dissonant findings? The other limitation of not capturing weekend and weekdays separately has already been addressed in the revised manuscript.

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:

None