Reviewer's report

Title: Trends in overweight and obesity in Lebanon: Evidence from two national cross-sectional surveys (1997 and 2009)

Version: 1  Date: 6 July 2012

Reviewer: Manuel Coelho e Silva

Reviewer's report:

MAJOR COMMENT

The manuscript titled "Trends in overweight and obesity in Lebanon: evidence from two national cross-sectional surveys (1997 and 2009)" is focused on secular trends and I strongly recommend to avoid redundancy with previous data published by Sibai who is co-author.

The adoption of IOTF and CDC should be included justified in the introduction. Do authors have any underlying hypotesis, or the subsequent analyses were mechaniccal?

PARTICULAR COMMENTS

The abstract does not include sample size

The abstract needs something new from previous literature.

The first paragraph of the introduction totally overlaps with the last sentence of the abstract. It is important to introduce readers about the novelty or the particular aspect of Lebanon

PAGE 4

Although authors mention that design have been described elsewhere, readers would appreciate to contact with details without searching for a parallel manuscript. Claimed details are relevant in populational studies.

PAGE 5

Anthropometry claims for data quality

PAGE 6

At the headline "statistical analyses" I have contacted with father education, mother education, crowding index and physical activity but, as a reader, I have any clue about how the information was collected.

PAGE 7 (2nd paragraph)
The manuscripts consider sex differences and I do not agree with the term gender. Please reconsider.

PAGE 8
I would recommend the adoption of two decimal places while reporting BMI and this is not the case in the first paragraph of the discussion

DISCUSSION
This section is excessively long and needs a rationale to link paragraphs
- secular trends
- sex differences
- prevalences across lifespan
- comparisons with other studies in Arabian countries

DISCUSSION SHOULD BE MORE CONCISE
Readers in the topic already know about prevalences in USA, Austria, France, Belgium. I would recommend authors to focus on secular trends and comparisons of the date in the context of Arabian countries

PAGE 10
The second paragraph derives to increased carotid intima.media thickness, atherosclerotic lesion, self esteem, proinflammatory considerations. I would prefer to have a discussion focised on secular trends with data informing about decenal changes in mother education, father education, physical activity (always in Lebanon)

REFERENCES
I am not aware about the policy of the journal, but 42 entries may be excessive for a generic report. I would invite authors to convert the material into a short report

TABLES
Table 1: OK
Table 2: OK
Tables 3 and 4: condensed into an unique table only with the prevalences of Overweight and obese by sex and age group. OR does not make sense

Table 5: use the information in the discussion.

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
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