Reviewer’s report

Title: Impact of HbA1c criterion on the definition of the metabolic syndrome: the China Health and Nutrition Survey 2009

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Reviewer: Sergio Martinez-Hervas

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript by Sun X et al is an interesting research about the utility of HbA1c in the identification of metabolic syndrome in a large representative sample of Chinese adults who participated in the China Health and Nutrition Survey. It is well conducted and suitable for publication. However, how do the authors explain the fact that subjects with HbA1c≥5.7% showed no differences in HOMA-IR with subjects without metabolic syndrome? The authors should add a commentary in the discussion section.

Minor essential revisions:

In the background section, at the end of the first paragraph the authors must add the reference: “according to ethnic origin []”.

In table 3, there is a mistake. † P < 0.001 compared with individuals with MetS according to FPG only and ‡ P < 0.001 compared with individuals with MetS according to FPG only are the same.

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:

I declare that I have no competing interests’.