Reviewer's report

Title: Metabolic syndrome in a cohort of Chinese schoolchildren: prevalence using two definitions and associations with leptin and adiponectin by factor analysis

Version: 5 Date: 7 January 2013

Reviewer: Constantina Papoutsakis

Reviewer's report:

This paper compares the prevalence of MS using 2 definitions: IDF and modified ATPIII and employs factor analysis to identify the features that play the biggest role in the MS.

Although the quality of writing has further improved, unfortunately it still requires some improvement.

The authors should be given the opportunity to revise their written work.

All following points are major compulsory revisions. These are:

1. Responses and manuscript continue to be difficult to understand. The ‘essence’ of a good paper is there but the execution in English does suffer. As written the paper cannot be published. I strongly suggest you use the services of an expert who can edit appropriately the quality of English (phrasing/syntax/grammar/spelling) throughout the paper itself and responses to reviewers as well. The latest revision still includes numerous phrases that lack proper syntax.

2. p.6 You provided in the paper the rationale for including children under 10. This is an excellent explanation yet the syntax of the sentence is problematic. ‘Although’ and ‘however’ do not fit in the same sentence.


4. In all tables listing MS criteria, include the specific cut-offs in footnotes. You did this in T2 but not in T3.

5. Discussion:
The subtitles are quite helpful. The key messages are better conveyed. Still, the newly revised discussion continues to be excessively long and very wordy. The authors may state the same points with about half the length. This restructuring was not attempted. Revise the discussion accordingly.

6. Reduce the use of words ‘however’ and ‘although’. Esp. ‘however’ seems to appear from one sentence to the next.
7. More than once correct the following phrase: Data not show. It is 'data not shown'.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

- 'I declare that I have no competing interests'