Reviewer's report

**Title:** Forecasting future prevalence of type 2 diabetes mellitus in Syria.

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 18 February 2013

**Reviewer:** Isao Saito

**Reviewer's report:**

Authors estimated that a quarter of people aged 25 years and over in Syria would have diabetes by 2022, by using the statistical models. However, I wonder if the estimation is valid. One reason is that expected incidence of diabetes is incredibly high and the evidence on the incidence in Syria is not mentioned. In general, information on incidence of diabetes is very little, even though in developed countries; therefore, the accuracy is very important in present study. Though authors added the appendices regarding the statistical models, the summary and the concept of the model should be mentioned in text. I do not understand the IMPACT Diabetes Forecast Model from MedCHAMPS project. Is this method valid?

Authors compared the results from the IDF projection and discussed the differences between the estimation from the IDF and present study. However, this result was not shown. Authors should discuss this point elaborately.

Future diabetes prevalence was estimated based on the conditions of smoking and obesity. This seemed to be too simple. The status of nutrition and physical activity should be considered. Further, why did authors consider the smoking trend important for the modeling? Regarding the variables added into the simulation model, authors should explain more.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.