Reviewer's report

Title: Short sleep duration and the risk of prehypertension and hypertension among Lithuanian children and adolescents: a case-control study

Version: 1 Date: 7 February 2014

Reviewer: Apolinaras Zaborskis

Reviewer's report:

- General comments:
Arterial blood pressure has powerful influence on health, and the study of factors influencing the level of blood pressure in everyday life is of particular importance. Such information on impact of sleep duration in childhood is especially valuable, since this is the age when most habits are developed and fixed.

1. The question posed by authors: “examine the associations between short sleep duration and risk of prehypertension and hypertension in Lithuanian children and adolescents aged 12 to 15 years” is well defined and very clear.
2. The work is presenting some of results of the national study with research methods of which are well described as well as correctly used in the presented work.
3. Abundant information from 6,940 subjects aged 12-15 year is analyzed and presented on suitable and clear way.
4. The work was done according to highest publication standards.
5. Discussion is firmly supported by the data and has close connection with introductory remarks and review of the literature. Conclusions are logical continuation of results and discussion.
6. Very sincere and complete description of the limitations of the work is clearly stated.
7. Before the list of 41 well cited references there are very informative acknowledgements.
8. The title and abstract clearly describe the essence of the work.
9. The authors’ contributions are precisely described after the statement that there was no competing interests.
10. The results of the work may indicate possible interventions in families giving an advise for parents to control children's sleep duration.
11. Altogether, the writing is more than acceptable. The size of the article and the number of tables is adequate.

- Minor Essential Revisions: author can be trusted to make these. For example,
missing labels on figures, the wrong use of a term, spelling mistakes.

1. As elevated blood pressure seems to be a dependent variable and sleep duration as an independent variable, the conclusion might sound better if to formulate it as follows: "

The risk of prehypertension and hypertension was associated with short sleep duration among children and adolescents aged 12 to 15 years in Lithuania.

2. In Tables 3 and 4. Use aOR for adjusted OR as it was defined in the text and the list of abbreviations.

3. Use P<0.001 instead of P<0.0001.

4. The number of references seems much extented comparing with other articles on a such particular problem.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests