Reviewer's report

Title: Screening premorbid metabolic syndrome in community pharmacies: a cross-sectional descriptive study

Version: Date: 16 February 2014

Reviewer: Daniel Fernandez-Berges

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Interesting work cross-sectional descriptive multicenter study where 23 pharmacies included attending population between 18 and 65 years. Through voluntary participation of citizens detect a prevalence of metabolic syndrome premorbid 21.9% (18.7-25.2)

Major Compulsory Revisions:

Methodologically has some biases such as:

* The no inclusion of patients over 65 population with greater prevalence of this syndrome.
* Recruitment of individuals from a pharmacy includes a probably similar population that is included in epidemiological studies from primary care, it is logical to assume that more illness patients will go to buy medicines than healthy people, although sometimes the healthy relatives buy the drugs.
* Low patient recruitment considering involving 23 centers over a year which, according to sample size 651 individuals, (average 1.6 per week per patient /pharmacy.)

Authors should include a Limitations section to clarified these three points.

Minor revision:

Corrections:

Page 8 last paragraph: the mean BMI do not agree with table 1 (CI 26,0-26.7 or 26.8 ? )

Page 9 last line : “...had not been previosly diagnosed with obesity, dyslipidaemia or hypertension” it is obvious that obesity is a simple diagnosis with a scales for the patient itself, please remove “obesity” from the phrase.

Page 11: Discussion 2 paragraph: “The main advantage of screenings for primary prevention carried out in community pharmacies is the relationship with the healthy population” I do not agree with this affirmation, pharmacies are places where ill and healthy people go to buy their medications.

Page 12 first line: “…or the higher proportion of ill patients who come into primary care” Authors must remove this phrase; DARIOS and HERMEX are population
based studies, the are “real healthy people” in epidemiologic sense, these population do not come from primary care.

Page 13 first paragraph: “DARIOS and HERMEX studies, they examined these prevalences only in patients with Pre-Mets” Authors must remove this phrase. Both studies published prevalence of risk factors (diabetes, smoke, etc) For DARIOS see Additional material: http://www.revespcardiol.org/en/linkresolver/sindrome-metabolico-espana-prevalencia-riesgo/90097768/ and for HERMEX (see article Table 1) quoted by the authors under number 18.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.