Reviewer's report

Title: The impact of clothing style on bone mineral density among post menopausal women in Morocco

Version: 1 Date: 7 December 2005

Reviewer: Brian C Lentle

Reviewer's report:

General
It must be explicitly specified if this was a prospective or retrospective study and if it was subject to IRB approval and use of informed consent if prospective.
You draw a conclusion prematurely in the penultimate paragraph of the introduction.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
The literature review might include reference to western data on the influence of latitude on serum vitamin D concentrations and the seminal study by Delmas et al. on vitamin D deficiency in an elderly nursing home population which engendered much of the subsequent interest in this subject.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
There is a semantic issue in that the authors define sub-clinical vitamin D deficiency as a cause of secondary osteoporosis which is debatable in that it is really sub-clinical osteomalacia masquerading as osteoporosis (depending upon the definition of osteoporosis being used).

On the other hand a reason to consider publication is that the experiment might be difficult to repeat in that it will become increasingly difficult to find a treatment-naïve population (not taking at least Ca and vitamin D) such as this. Equally data such as these will not easily be found in situations where there are no vitamin D supplements in the diet.

In paragraph 2 of the methods it will be important to know if the authors included proximal femoral fractures in "peripheral fractures".

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.