Reviewer's report

Title: Obesity and Hypertension in an Iranian Cohort Study; Iranian Women Experience Higher Rates of Obesity and Hypertension Than American Women

Version: 3 Date: 30 March 2006

Reviewer: Pedro Marques-Vidal

Reviewer's report:

General

This is an interesting work on the prevalence of obesity in Middle East. The manuscript is well written, the data collection is impressive and the data analysis is sound. The manuscript adds further knowledge on the overall obesity pandemic, namely in a region for which there is little information available.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

None required

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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)

Abstract, line 4: some text appears to be missing "compared age-adjusted ....". Please revise the reference formatting; many references are stated after the period (see for instance in the Background, lines 18 and 20). Also, there should be a space before the parenthesis (see for instance in the Background, lines 12 and 17).

The text should be written in the past tense (see page 1, line 8 “estimated”)

In the Methods (page 2, line 5), the authors state that they included 8,999 participants, but data from 8,998 is indicated in the abstract and the results. Although the explanation is provided in the beginning of page 4, it would be easier for the reader that the authors indicate that they excluded a subject because of missing data in the Methods, not in the Results.

More information regarding the height, weight, waist and hip measurement should be provided; how was the rounding performed? Were the subjects wearing light clothes? The higher waist observed in this study might be due to differences in the measurement location.

Pages 5, 7 and 8: the authors indicate that they used logistic regression for the analysis of data, but this is not reported in the Statistical Methods.

References: no Journal name provided in ref. 8. In refs 18 and 19, the Journal name should be abbreviated. Ref. 24: Trabzon (uppercase).

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Page 6, second paragraph, line 5: “The prevalence of obesity…”

Also page 6, last paragraph, line 10 “having high WHR…”?

Figure 1 is duplicated in the manuscript. Only the first one should be kept as its graphic quality is better
What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests