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: 1 May 2006

Reviewer: Arash Rashidi

Reviewer's report:

General
The authors present results from a large cross-sectional population-based cohort study assessing the prevalence of obesity in Iran. The study is well-designed and the results are interesting. The paper is well written, however I summarize here below few comments that might strengthen the paper:

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

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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)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore.

Major comments:
1- The authors should discuss about the sampling method of Golestan Cohort Study.

Minor comments:
1. I am not sure if it is necessary to compare the middle eastern population with Pima Indians in the US and Dutch famine in the Europe, in the first paragraph of the background section?
2. The first sentence of the last paragraph in “Background” is better to be changed as: This paper in Iran using the data from a large Iranian cohort, the Golestan Cohort Study.
3. The last sentence of the last paragraph in “Background” is better to be deleted.
4. The first title under “Methods” should be “Golestan Cohort Study”.
5. The first sentence under “study population” should be: Golestan Cohort Study is a large study that is being conducted in North-East of Iran and includes 8999 people between 40 to 49 years old.
6. The second sentence under “study population” should be changed to: The study is an esophageal cancer and the associated risk factors.
7. The 3rd sentence under “study population” should be deleted.
8. The second sentence of the second paragraph under “study population” should be changed to: to participate by attending their local health service center or the Golestan Cohort Study center for interview.
9. The last sentence of the second paragraph under “study population” should be changed to: and (2) previous history of upper .
10. Authors may refer to JNC VII for definition of HTN in their study, instead of mentioning the numbers.

11. According to table 1, the prevalence of sex in the rural area is 41.7% men vs. 43% women. What about the remaining 16.3%?

What next?: Accept after discretionary 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.