Reviewer's report

Title: Knowledge of vitamin D and perceptions and attitudes towards sunlight among Chinese middle-aged and elderly women: a population survey in Hong Kong

Version: 3 Date: 1 August 2006

Reviewer: Michael Holick

Reviewer's report:

General

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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)

Suggestions

1. The authors have made many of the suggested revisions. Unfortunately, the missed the point regarding a sunscreen with an SPF of 8. They should either state that only sunscreens with an SPF of 15 or greater are sold in Hong Kong or a majority whatever that percent might be use this SPF and that either sunscreens with < 15 are not sold or are not used. Otherwise, they have underestimated sunscreen use and the impact on vitamin D status since an SPF of 8 can reduce the amount of vitamin D produced in the skin by 95% as is now stated in the conclusion. The sentence as it is now provides no insight into this issue.

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