Author's response to reviews

Title: Anthropometry Measures and Prevalence of Obesity in the Urban Adult Population of Cameroon: An update from the Cameron Burden of Diabetes Baseline Survey

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Revised Manuscript: Anthropometry measures and prevalence of obesity in the urban adult population of Cameroon: an update from the Cameroon Burden of Diabetes Baseline Survey

We submit for publication in your journal the above named paper. We live in the part of the world where there is a paucity of information about the burden of chronic diseases and underlying risk factors like obesity. Recently, we have observed that Cameroon as other developing countries have embraced the chronic disease epidemic. This paper provides baseline data on anthropometrics measurements and updates the prevalence of obesity in the urban adult population of Cameroon.

Our findings highlight the need to carry out further studies in the Cameroonian context to provide appropriate cut-off points for the identification of people at risk of obesity-related disorders. The paper also raises public health concerns about the prevalence of obesity and provides solid reasons for policy makers to develop and implement cost effective strategies to curves these trends.

We believe that this paper raises important scientific issues which will be of interest to the international scientific community.

The manuscript was revised according to the concerns of the three reviewers. We would like to thank the reviewers for their perceptive comments and we believe the paper has been greatly strengthened as a result of the changes made. We hope the paper is now suitable for publication. A list of the revisions is provided below.

General
- The article was reformatted according to the journal style throughout e.g. citations, references, place of keywords, number format (reviewer 3 – PMR)
- The language was revised to ensure correct spelling and grammar (reviewer 1 – HDM)
The name of an important contributing author, mistakenly forgotten in the original submission was added to the author list (Unwin Nigel)

The author’s contributions section was added.

In the methods section
- The name of the Ethics committee that approved the study protocol was added (Cameroon national Ethics Committee)
- A note that odds ratios were calculated using logistic regression was added (data analysis) section (rev 3)

In the results section:
- A BMI < 20Kg/m$^2$ category was added to the analyses and results presented in table 3, and in a new figure 2. (rev 1 and rev 3). Figure 2 shows the relative prevalence of obesity and underweight, and a comment has been added to the text in the last paragraph of the ‘Prevalence of underweight, overweight and obesity’ in the results section (rev 3).
- Unnecessary duplication of results from tables in the text has been removed and other minor errors noted have been corrected (rev 3)
- Text relating to the partial correlation coefficients in figure 1 has been revised to remove unnecessary comment on associations between BMI and weight (rev 3)
- The percentages in table 2 have been rounded to one decimal place (rev 3)
- The mean WHRs in table 3 have been rechecked and corrected where there were errors (rev 3), and standard errors entered so that none are given rounded to 0.00 as previously (rev 3)
- Figures have been renumbered and reformatted to improve comprehension

Discussion
- The discussion has been rewritten to improve the clarity of the arguments, with descriptions of obesity levels as defined by BMI, WHR and WC clearly stated (rev 3)
- We have added some initial conclusions about the relevance of the 3 measures of obesity to the discussion (rev 1)

Yours sincerely,

Professor Jean Claude Mbanya
Head of Unit