Reviewer's report

Title: The metabolic syndrome in different age groups as defined by the International Diabetes Federation: prevalence data from the Norwegian HUNT 2 Study

Version: 2 Date: 1 March 2007

Reviewer: Rod Jackson

Reviewer's report:

General

In my opinion the authors have gone to considerable effort to respond to the reviewers comments and have done a good job. I don't think the shorter fasting period before blood samples is a fatal flaw and this is confirmed by their re-analysis after adjustment, which shows a very minor change in prevalence. Moreover the metabolic syndrome is a very arbitrary construct and this paper highlights some of the implications of this artificial 'disease.'

On balance I would recommend that you publish this.

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

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept without revision