Reviewer’s report

Title: Population attributable risk for diabetes associated with excess weight in Iranian adults: A population-based cohort study

Version: 2 Date: 25 August 2007

Reviewer: Teruo Nagaya

Reviewer’s report:

General

In the response, authors say that the low follow-up ratio may be due to tenants (do not have their own home) and their high migration rate. Generally, such 'wandering' subjects are socio-economically low and unhealthy. However, authors indicate that non-followed subjects are healthier than followed subjects at baseline. The authors' interpretation and the results may be discrepant?. Are there any other reasons for the low follow-up ratio?

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

It is well known that sex is a major factor influencing occurrence of DM and other illness. Also in the study, sex-differences are significant in many baseline indices and in the results (ORs). Sex-ratio is also skewed (M/F=1961/2726=0.72). Therefore, baseline data and results from total subjects including both sexes are misleading and should be deleted. Subjects selection and follow-up ratio (p.6. 1.8-1.11), baseline data (Table 1) and results (Table 2) should be presented by sex, and authors should be discussed by sex.

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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)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being
Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

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