Reviewer's report

Title: Life style related to blood pressure and body weight in adolescence: Cross sectional data from the Young-HUNT study, Norway.

Version: 1 Date: 12 July 2007

Reviewer: Christos Pitsavos

Reviewer's report:

General
This is a cross sectional study aimed to address a vary interesting subject, which is the role of lifestyle habits on obesity and blood pressure status in adolescence.

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

Major comments: Although the sample size is satisfactory I have some comments to make referring to the some methodological issues of this study. I believe the authors should have measured central obesity and not only BMI. Furthermore the nutritional qustionnaire is rather poor and they should have used a more detailed FFQ with weekly consumption of all food variables, including alcohol, protein and type of protein intake (fish, red meat, poultry,..) and try to create a nutritional score in order to evaluate the nutritional habits as healthy or unhealthy. Otherwise they have to measure the effect of each dietary component alone. The authors should have checked also the abuse of drugs especially in those subjects who smoke as a possible cofounder for the lower systolic blood pressure levels. Physical activity status should be measured using a more detailed questionairre. The authors should inform about the statistical power of their sample size for the presented results. The authors should investigate further explanations why smokers have lower systolic blood pressure. The should investigate pulse pressure and from other studies in adolescence the prognostic factor of blood pressure in that age and also the impact of packet years of smoking.

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?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions.
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'