Reviewer’s report

Title: Predictors of overweight and obesity in five to seven year old children in Germany: results from cross-sectional studies

Version: 1 Date: 21 December 2007

Reviewer: Michael Toschke

Reviewer’s report:

Apfelbacher et al report associations between sociodemographic and lifestyle risk factors from an impressive series of cross-sectional surveys. Their observations provide a helpful basis for policy makers on deciding on PH actions. Overall the MS is well written and concise and I have only few comments.

Minor essential revisions:

1) Although it might be some additional work, I wonder if the authors want to generalise their article and findings for an international readership by rewording and adding some international literature rather than focusing on German readers.
2) Statistical analysis:
   a. Did the authors test for multicollinearity? I would especially assume the smoking variables to be collinear as regards contents. Therefore, including collinear (if so) smoking variables (like current smoking and smoking in pregnancy) into the same model might yield biased effect estimates and might explain the low effect of smoking in pregnancy. The same holds for other covariates, e.g. for birth weight and smoking etc.
   b. Did the authors examine any interactions?
3) Limitations/methodological considerations: I would appreciate a discussion on methodological considerations addressing issues such as reverse causality (in particular temporal relationship) and measurement precision of exposures.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.