Reviewer’s report

Title: Association between Television Viewing and the Risk of Metabolic Syndrome in a Community-based Population

Version: 1 Date: 27 November 2007

Reviewer: David Laaksonen

Reviewer’s report:

General

This is a large cross-sectional study in Taiwanese that provides additional support for the hypothesis that sedentary behaviours such as TV watching increase the likelihood of the metabolic syndrome and related metabolic diseases. As the authors note, previous cross-sectional and prospective studies have found an association between TV watching and obesity, type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease, but little data are available for the metabolic syndrome itself.

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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)

1. Was the question regarding the amount of TV watched an open question, or were categories provided?

2. The authors state that a modification of the NCEP definition was used, but they do not state what that modification was. It is apparent that the modification is regarding the cut-offs for abdominal obesity. The authors should explicitly state this, and state the reference for the 90 and 80 cm cut-offs.

3. Carbohydrate intake should be adjusted by energy intake before use in correlation or regression analyses, as recommended by Willett and others.

4. The authors frequently use the word “developing” in reference to their findings. They did not find that more TV watching was associated with a higher risk of developing the metabolic syndrome. Rather, they found that it was associated with a higher risk of having the metabolic syndrome, or more simply, of with a higher risk of the metabolic syndrome. “Developing” implies that the findings are prospective.

5. The second to last sentence of the conclusion of the discussion needs to be split into two sentences.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely
related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.