Reviewer's report

Title: Obesity - Epidemiological Burden from a European Perspective. A Systematic Review

Version: 1 Date: 14 February 2008

Reviewer: Maira Bes-Rastrollo

Reviewer's report:

The aim of this study was to summarise the available epidemiological data on the prevalence of obesity in European countries. I think that the authors had made a considerably effort to review and clearly show the results. However, some comments, amendments and suggestions need to be addressed before publication.

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS

1) It is unacceptable that the MEDLINE search arrived until September 2006. The data will be old before being published. The authors should repeat the MEDLINE search at least until September 2007 or even until today and update the results.

2) The authors should check the edition of the manuscript. There are several typos such as references [5],[6-9] in page 7, [12]Institute of European Food Studies (IEFS), 40kg/m2, (European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition),[13] in page 8, BMU, Sweden,[20], BMI â¥30kg/m2 [21] in page 9, factors,[29] in page 10, and it.â#@[37], in page 11. The authors should also leave one space before writing the number of the references.

3) In order to improve and increase the citations of the manuscript, I recommend the inclusion of another table taking into account self-reported measurements, comparing them to direct ones. For example it could be:

European prevalence of obesity (BMI â¥ 30 kg/m2) (%) among adult population (18-65 years) based on self-reported and direct measurements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Self-reported</th>
<th>Directly measured</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Men</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You can make a note if the age and/or characteristics of the samples between self-reported and directly measured are different.

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 importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

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