Reviewer's report

Title: Knowledge and Perception of Diabetes in a Semi-urban Omani population

Version: 1 Date: 6 February 2008

Reviewer: Viswanathan Mohan

Reviewer's report:

The article 'Knowledge and perception of diabetes in a semi-urban Omani population' is based on the association between various elements of knowledge (e.g.: diabetes definition, symptoms, risk factors, complications and preventive measures, as well as risk perception for diabetes) and perception and socio demographic factors. The study concluded that public awareness about diabetes is quite less and that health campaigns are the need of the hour. The following issues need to be addressed.

1. The background is too long and can be shortened.

2. In the sampling and procedure section, Page 5 'Those households which agreed to participate were marked - It was not clear what the response rate of the households was. How many subjects per house were selected? This could also be added.

3. Table 2 can be deleted and the data added in the text

4. Figure 1 is given in the Discussion. This should come in the Results section.

5. Figure 1 is not clear. The figure looks incomplete without the x and y axis defined. Not clear whether the figure represents knowledge of diabetes among the non diabetic respondents / diabetic respondent or whether it is the whole respondent population.

6. The study mentions that 53.5% respondents did not know about the definition of diabetes but 65.2% knew symptoms and 73.9% knew the risk factor and over all the preventive measure taken by the respondents is 74.2%. This shows that the awareness is quite high. How do the authors justify their conclusions?

7. Discussion can be shortened by 50% and needs to be rewritten sticking to the main points made in the paper.

What next?: Accept after minor essential 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.