Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence of diabetes mellitus and the performance of a risk score among Hindustani Surinamese, African Surinamese and ethnic Dutch: a cross-sectional population based study

Version: 1 Date: 24 November 2007

Reviewer: MA Sayeed

Reviewer’s report:

General

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

The paper compared the prevalence of DM among Hindustani Surinamese, African Surinamese and the ethnic Dutch. The paper also evaluated the risk score that the authors have developed from their prevalence study data.

As regards the Hindustani and African Surinamese the data are newly generated and the objectives are well defined. The Background information is relevant and adequate. The study design, the results and the discussions including the conclusions seem to be appropriate but there are some flaws described below – 

• The authors should have noted the numbers as denominator that how many of the total ethnic Dutch living in Amsterdam wherefrom the sample was drawn. It would have been better to mention the figure how many of the a) Hindustani Surinamese with one parent and b) with both parents. This could have given the comparison better between ethnic variations.

• The discussions should contain the limitation of the study that the response rate was only 60%.

To me the article is acceptable.

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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)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interest