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: 16 December 2007

Reviewer: Ike Okosun

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. Ethnic-specific prevalence estimates in Table 2 should be adjusted for age. The methods for adjustment (direct or indirect) should be described in the text (methods).
2. Statistics in Table 3, including AUC, sensitivity, specificity should include 95% confidence intervals in order to determine differences among groups and also to determine statistical significance.
3. The conclusion that “Screening for DM should start before the age of 45 years in Hindustani Surinamese and African Surinamese populations.” Should be toned down given the fact that the populations that were investigated were between 35-60 years of age. If you are suggesting that DM is not prevalent in subjects less than 35 and greater than 60 years, you need to provide references and say so in discussion.
4. A sentence or two describing methods that were used to assay Fasting glucose, high density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL) and triglyceride levels will be needed.

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. There minor grammatical sentences all over and should be checked. Eg. In abstract last sentence of method “The diagnostic accuracy was assessed the area under the receiver operator characteristic curve (AUC).” Should be “The diagnostic accuracy was assessed USING the area under the receiver operator characteristic curve (AUC).”
2. A sentence describing whether the excluded differ from eligible subjects should be in the methods.
3. Representativeness of the selected subjects should be addressed in the discussion

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 interest.