Reviewer's report

Title: Factors associated to hypertension prevalence, unawareness and treatment among Costa Rican elderly

Version: 1 Date: 27 October 2007

Reviewer: Miguel Gus

Reviewer's report:

General
This is a cross-sectional study with a representative sample of the elderly population from Costa Rica. The results showed a high prevalence of hypertension and substantial proportion of unawareness of this condition in men and women. The main factors associated with hypertension were age, obesity and family history of hypertension.

These findings are not new and reproduce results from other population-based studies. Even so, this manuscript has merits because it has a large sample, a well-established hypertension measurement with an automatic blood pressure device and shows that the hypertension is a world-wide problem.

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

There wasn't a sample size calculation. Some of the findings in table 3 may be due to a type II error.

A more detailed explanation needs to be given regarding the definition of family history of hypertension.

A more detailed explanation needs to be given regarding the sample selection.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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

**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