Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 2 January 2008

Reviewer: George Fodor

Reviewer's report:

Reviewer's Comments

General: Reliable data on the prevalence of hypertension in the elderly in the Caribbean area are scarce. Information concerning the prevalence of hypertension and its determinants are providing useful knowledge. The objectives of the study are well defined.

The sampling is appropriate and the sample size sufficient for making valid conclusions.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. There are problems with the definition of the hypertensive status. An individual is described as hypertensive based on the BP values but also if he/she claims that a doctor told them that they are hypertensives. Although this information is of value when the awareness of hypertension is being assessed, it is not satisfactory for a prevalence study.

Discretionary Revisions:

1. It would have been of interest if the prevalence of current smokers had been listed instead of a category "has ever used" tobacco, in Table 1.

2. In Table 2, it would be of interest to know how many hypertensives were labeled as such on the basis of BP measurement vs. self-reporting.

The paper reads well; if the above questions can be clarified the paper is suitable for publication in the BioMed Central.

What next?: Accept after minor essential 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.