Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence of obesity and abdominal obesity in the Swiss population

Version: 1 Date: 3 June 2008

Reviewer: Jean Dallongeville

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined? yes
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described? yes
3. Are the data sound? yes
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? yes
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? yes
6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated? The authors could comment the representativeness of their sample
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished? no
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? yes
9. Is the writing acceptable? YES

The paper entitled “Prevalence of obesity and abdominal obesity in the Swiss population” by Marques-Vidal et al reports the values of prevalence of obesity and abdominal obesity in a sample of 3249 men and 2937 men aged 35-75 years.

- Discretionary Revisions

The results of the present study were obtained from a large sub-sample of the population of Lausanne. The participation rate appears rather low. They found that the prevalence of obesity in their sample is lower than previous estimations for Switzerland. The authors could comment the properties of their sample to represent the population of Lausanne.

The authors found that the prevalence of abdominal obesity is larger in women than in men whereas the opposite is observed for obesity. Although they used the recommended cut-off to define abdominal obesity and obesity in men and women one possible explanation to explain their results is that different cut-off values of abdominal obesity are used for men and women whereas a single cut-off is used to defined obesity. Would they mind to comment?

This paper is acceptable for publication providing discretionary modifications.