Reviewer’s report

Title: High prevalence of obesity, central obesity and abnormal glucose tolerance in the middle-aged Finnish

Version: 1 Date: 21 April 2008

Reviewer: Ronald Stolk

Reviewer’s report:

Saaristo and colleagues present results from a population based survey on the prevalence of obesity and diabetes in a Finnish population. Although the research question is clear and well defined, the paper contains a serious flaw: the sampling of the study population is done in strata of age, which does not represent the age distribution of the population. Therefore the presented population prevalence figures are incorrect. The analyses should be based on the survey design (which is available within the used Stata package).

A minor flaw is the lack of comparison between those who did and who did not participate in the study.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'