Reviewer’s report

Title: The Cutoff Values of Visceral Fat Area and Waist Circumference for Identifying Subjects at Risk for Metabolic Syndrome in Elderly Korean: Ansan Geriatric (AGE) Cohort Study

Version: 1 Date: 20 August 2009

Reviewer: Kei Asayama

Reviewer’s report:

Comments for the Authors

In the present study, authors demonstrated that both WC and VFA have a similar power to identify elderly individuals with MetS. It is interesting point that WC cutoff point among elderly people would be the same regardless of gender. The paper is well written; I have only several questions.

1. I assume “non-adipose components of WC” means “Metabolic risk-factors except WC”. In the context, the word “non-adipose” sounds curious for me since adipose would be capable of implying some cholesterol (including LDL, TG, and HDL).

2. Were your study data derived both from the baseline assessment (first-wave study) and from the follow-up assessment (second-wave study)? If yes, please clarify the source of each datum you have used in the manuscript. If not, the disused assessment information would be unnecessary in the present paper.

3. Please describe how to measure and to manage subjects’ own blood pressure in detail (it may need 1 or 2 paragraph). According to Tables, almost half of study subjects have taken antihypertensive treatment. Is it common in Korean elderly population?

4. You have used linear regression analyses without any adjustment. Even among elderly population, at least age adjustment should be needed.

5. Figure 2 seems complicated and hard to be understood for readers. Please arrange the Figure and text 3.4. in Result.

6. The second paragraph in Discussion; when using 80th percentile of WC, the WC cutoff point was similar in both genders. As mentioned above, it seems attractive point. I recommend the point should be clearly described in Result, and I would also like to know cutoff points of BMI and of VFA among elderly subjects.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.