Reviewer's report

Title: Risk factors for childhood obesity - Education and Ethnicity

Version: 1 Date: 19 August 2009

Reviewer: Manfred Müller

Reviewer's report:

This study includes crude cross-sectional data on determinants of obesity in children at age 5. Although a huge data base has been analysed I consider data quality as poor. The results do not add much to the present discussion in the area of childhood overweight. Poor methods have been used to address determinants of overweight, there is a lack of objective measures. Data on food intake and physical activity have not been validated. In addition a very selected number of items (e.g. 3 food items) are presented which cannot provide a sound basis to characterise nutrition quality. The authors are recommended to cooperate with a nutritionist. In addition characteristics like "enjoys physical activity" cannot serve as a suitable marker of physical activity. It is also unacceptable to characterise family behaviours by 2 items only (i.e. mother's prepregnancy weight and smoking near child). This manuscript leaves me with the feeling that here is a total lack of concept. Obviously the authors are far away from today's obesity research. This is a pity and also waste of time for the reviewer.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.