Reviewer's report

Title: Bone Mineral Density in healthy Iranian population: A Cross sectional study

Version: Date: 3 September 2004

Reviewer: Wing P. Chan

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions
It is important to get worldwide data on bone densitometry. The authors need to address clearly how the healthy individuals were selected, and to include the duration of this study and the reference standard of the T-score.

Minor essential revisions
Introduction: Reduce non-relevant description. Add data from previous reports, if any, regarding osteoporosis or osteoporotic fractures of Iranian people. Point out the limitations of previous reports, and then, address the aim of the present study.
Methods: Was this study designed prospectively or retrospectively? How were the individuals selected randomly? How did you exclude those individuals with systemic diseases, or simply, how did you select individuals who were healthy? (Reduce description of all diseases in the exclusion criteria, simply, just exclude systemic diseases) Was the precision of the DXA calibrated regularly? Was the T-score for men calculated from the peak bone mass of female Caucasian young adults?
Results: Give the number of individuals in each age group (Table 1). All figures must be expressed in BMD (g/cm2) (mean and SD), not the percentage prevalence of osteoporosis/osteopenia, for the Y-axis and age group for the X-axis.
Discussion: Use peak bone mass instead of maximum bone density. Compare the peak bone mass with Caucasians or Asians and compare the prevalence of osteoporosis/osteopenia with Caucasians or Asians in separate paragraphs, respectively. The limitations of this study have to be discussed.
References: Consistently use standardized abbreviations for all journals.

Discretionary revisions
There are some grammar and syntax errors in this paper.

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: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes

Declaration of competing interests:

None