Reviewer's report

Title: The assessment of Osteoporosis risk factors in Iranian women compared with Indian women

Version: 4 Date: 8 October 2007

Reviewer: elisabeth sornay-rendu

Reviewer's report:

General
The authors have answered to the comments and have corrected the manuscript. Nevertheless, some added revisions are necessary before accepting the manuscript

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1- Descriptive characteristics of cases and controls in both countries are still lacking for HRT, calcium supplementation, exercise and food habits. All the variables used in the further analysis should appear in a table and should be compared using t tests and #2 before calculating the odds ratio.

2- Age is a major risk of osteoporosis and should appear in the results and the discussion.

3- Weight or bone mass index should also be evaluated as a possible risk factor in both countries.

4- History of osteoporotic fractures should appear in the discussion.

5- Methodology: the device used to BMD measurement for both countries should be indicated in the manuscript.

6- To better understand why the authors have adjusted for age, the matching of the controls with cases in 10 years groups should be noted in the manuscript.

7- Tables 2,3,4 and 5: OR should appear after adjustment for age for both countries and for age and other confounding variables including prevalent fractures for both countries.

8- The frequency of smoking should appear in both countries.

9- It seems surprising that no woman wore veil in Iran and only two in India. Is it really representative of the countries habits?

10- p6: “estrogen deprivation” and not “estrogen is one of the most important factors..”

11- the role of estrogen deprivation is well known and the mechanisms by which it affects bone mass should not be discussed here.
Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

**What next?:** Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**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' below