Reviewer's report

Title: Apolipoprotein A1/ high density lipoprotein-cholesterol ratio is an important risk factor in type 2 diabetes ?

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Reviewer: Gerald H Tomkin

Reviewer's report:

The title of this article is intreguing. I initially thought the authors were going to look at risk of complications of diabetes but the purpose of the paper is not stated in the background. Instead the authors just state that the authors analysed lipid, lipoproteins and other variables to determine the potential roles as predictors of diabetes" Thus the study is a cross sectional study investigating lipids, lipoproteins and other variables in order to discover abnormalities in diabetes as compared to non-diabetic subjects. Diabetes mellitus is so named because blood sugar makes the diagnosis of diabetes so the study is a study of lipid abnormalities in diabetes as compared to the general population. Lipoprotein abnormalities are so well described in diabetes that it has been suggested that diabetes mellitus should be renamed diabetes lipidus. There is ample literature to confirm low HDL, high triglycerides as the major lipid abnormality in diabetes. The interesting new finding in this paper is that apo A1/HDL cholesterol is more likely to be abnormal in diabetic than non-diabetic patients. Thus the authors show that if you have not got the ability to measure blood sugar to diagnose diabetes, you might suspect diabetes by an abnormal apo A1/HDL cholesterol at least in a taiwanese population. What would be interesting to find in the future is whether this ratio can predict the development of diabetes prior to hyperglycaemia occurring. Some attention needs to be paid to spelling and grammer. The abstract should perhaps be slightly altered and it should be made clear that the study is about identification of new patients with diabetes rather than predicting the risk of developing diabetes in the future

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declared I have no competing interests