Reviewer’s report

Title: Insulin resistance (HOMA-IR) cut-off values and the metabolic syndrome in a general adult population: effect of gender and age. EPIRCE cross-sectional study.

Version: 2 Date: 4 June 2013

Reviewer: Qiuhua Shen

Reviewer’s report:

The authors appropriately addressed most of the reviewer’s comments and the quality of the manuscript has been improved. However, changes for some of the comments were not reflected in the revised manuscript, although the authors claimed that the change has been made in their responses. There are still additional minor issues that need to be addressed.

Minor Essential Revisions

ABSTRACT

1. Background: Ln 2, add a period after “metabolic risk”; Ln 4, change “describes” to “describe”. The third sentence “To describe the influence of…” is incomplete. Please change it to “The purpose of this study was to describe …”.

2. Methods: Ln 6, change “classified” to “classifying”.

3. Results: Ln 2, please change “…to 2.05 take into account MetS components.” to “…to 2.05 taking into account of MetS components”.

BACKGROUND

4. P3, Ln 7-8, the sentence of “However, no take into account the ability of proposed cutoff points to identify risk of clinically relevant outcomes.” is still somewhat confusing. Did the authors intend to mean that “However, no studies have examined the ability of proposed cutoff points to …”?  

5. P3, Ln 9, change “being” to “been”.

METHODS

Specific laboratory determinations

6. P1, Ln 3, the kit used to measure fasting insulin level was not added.

RESULTS

AUC values of HOMA-IR by gender and diabetes status

7. P1, Ln 6, the referenced table should be “Table 3”, instead of “Table 2”, after
re-numbering the tables.

DISCUSSION

8. P5, Ln7-10, the same statement of “The consideration of the attendant risk of cardiovascular and metabolic diseases to establish this cut-off point would increase its clinical utility in identifying those patients in whom the presence of multiple metabolic risk factors imparts an increased metabolic and cardiovascular risk.” appeared three times in the manuscript, including the Abstract, Discussion, and Conclusions. Please re-write/paraphrase to avoid repeating the exact statements three times.

Table 1

9. Please add the actual numbers of subjects who had metabolic syndrome among women and men with or without diabetes, using ATP III and IDF criteria. For example, 11.1% (159), 14.9% (152).

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: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.