Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Phenotypic Differences between young adult Pakistani and Norwegian Patients with Type 2 Diabetes: a cross sectional Study

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 30 August 2013

**Reviewer:** Christopher Stevenson

**Reviewer’s report:**

This paper addresses an important topic in diabetes research—differences in diabetes risk between ethnic groups. This is not my main area of expertise, so I will make no comment on the specific measurements made by the authors and their clinical interpretation. Instead I will confine my comments to the study design and analysis.

1. Overall the statistical analyses were appropriate to the type of data presented.

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

2. I am concerned about the low response rate (19 and 21 out of 195) and its potential to bias the results. The authors state that “Participant characteristics were similar to a subgroup of approximately 80 of the 155 patients not included” but I would like to see the data supporting this statement. This could be presented in a supplementary file rather than in the main paper.

3. I am also concerned at the implications of the small sample size for the reporting of the results—particularly where the authors draw conclusions implying no differences between the Norwegian and Pakistani groups. For example, the authors note that they “found no significant differences between the groups in GIR or ISI during the first step.” (line 192). However, inspection of table 2 shows that there is a difference between the point estimates of these measures. I would like some discussion of (1) whether the observed difference would be of practical/clinical significance and (2) whether the lack of statistical significance could be due to the lack of power arising from the small sample size.

4. Since the focus of the paper is on differences between the Norwegian and Pakistani groups, I don’t see the point of including the non-diabetic control group. They are only mentioned twice in the results section and in neither case do they contribute to our understanding of differences between the Pakistani and Norwegian groups.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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