Reviewer's report

Title: Salivary cortisol differs with age and sex and shows inverse associations with waist-hip ratio in women: a cross-sectional study within the Skaraborg Project

Version: 1 Date: 26 February 2009

Reviewer: Åse Marie Hansen

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript is generally well written and well structured. However, I have some minor queries for the methods and results and I would prefer a shorter title.

The manuscript aimed to study diurnal variation of cortisol and explore its association with abdominal obesity in a large unselected population gender stratified. The topic is relevant and within the scope of the journal. The question posed by the authors is well defined. Methods are appropriate and well described. The manuscript is generally well written and well structured. However, I have some minor queries for the methods and results.

Discretionary revision: I would prefer a shorter title.

Minor Essential Revisions:

Methods
Did you use cotton, polyester or cortisol Salivette®? Please include.
Did you record time of sampling? Did you include time of sampling in your statistical analysis? Please clarify and if yes please include in the statistical analysis.
Did you adjust for time of awakening? Please clarify and if yes please include in the statistical analysis.

Results
Figure 1-3 are a repetition of results in tables 3-5. Please only present data one time.

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:

No