Reviewer's report

Title: Could the Sasang Constitution Itself be a Risk Factor of Abdominal Obesity?

Version: 3 Date: 6 September 2012

Reviewer: Eui Ju Lee

Reviewer's report:

** General Comment:
This is a data-based cross-sectional study among Korean people to evaluate whether SC type could be a risk for AO. Although this is an interesting piece of work, a few issues need to be addressed.

1) Introduction.
- Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported

2) Method/Design. The method section is insufficiently described.
- Participants: Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants
- A flowchart to show the study design would be helpful
- Variables: Clearly define all outcomes, constitutional diagnosis, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable
- Bias: Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias
- Study size: Explain how the study size was arrived at
- Statistical methods: Explain how missing data were addressed

3) Result
- Participants: a) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage
b) Consider use of a flow diagram
- Main results: Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included

4) Discussion
- Key results: Summarize key results with reference to study objectives
- Limitations: Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias

5) Reference: Follow the guideline of reference

** Specific Comments:
1) On page 4, the authors state, “the Sasang constitution (SC) has been found to be the inherent cause of obesity in Korean society,” but no references are provided.

2) On page 17, table 2, check the group sample size.

3) This manuscript should be rewritten with the help of native speaking scientist.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.