Reviewer's report

Title: An algorithm to identify patients with treated type 2 diabetes using medico-administrative data

Version: 1 Date: 7 January 2011

Reviewer: LOMBRAIL Pierre

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper addressing an important topic: how to monitor public efforts directed at the containment of the diabetes epidemics without any valid tool to survey the incidence of the disease?
The methods are appropriate but should be better described. For instance,
- the rationale for choosing the criterions defining treated diabetes should be argumented;
- the methodology of the ENTRED study should be recorded shortly, even stating that it is validated, for the reader to be able to understand the whole selection's algorithm;
- the methods used to compensate for a lacking gold standard should be explicited more clearly; at least the use of "such as" (p7) to describe the characteristics of the patients taken into account to calculate "the range of the possible values of the real proportion of type 2 diabetic patients" seems misleading.

Concerning the results, the reader could be surprised that so much cases were rejected (6091, p10) and reasons (examples) for doing this should be given.
The discussion is well conducted as well as the analysis of the literature.
I would be interested to know what would be the results applied to the same data set in my country.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

2 of the authors are colleagues of mine in the sense that they are teachers of public helath at a french medical school, but in Paris when i am working in Nantes.
We did'nt exchange about this work and we are'nt members of the same
research team.