Reviewer's report

Title: Dietary factors associated with obesity indicators in Flemish adults with different levels of sports participation: a cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 15 May 2007

Reviewer: marta garaulet

Reviewer's report:

General
The paper is well redacted and documented. The introduction, objectives, methods and results, are well represented. The discussion section in well organized.
The major strength of this paper is the evaluation of inaccurate reports of dietary intake and the classification of people attending to these criteria. However I have some doubts about the equation applied that I would like that authors could explain to me:

1- Why do authors take into account the technical error of measuring energy expenditure by the doubly labelled water method?. Is this error the same for every subject? Please let me know an example of the application of this formula in one subject, in order to understand this model.
2- Were the different skinfolds measured by the same anthropometrist? If not, do you know the coefficient of variation of the measurements performed by the different anthropometrists?
3- Is there any significant difference in BMI or Body fat % between subjects depending on the degree of participation in health related sports?. If so, please include the data in the Results section.
4- In the discussion section, in the paragraph commenting the fat intake, authors could include the following reference in order to reinforce the importance of fat in the obesity development.


Which concludes that even though obesity is a multifactorial phenomenon, the results suggest that dietary intake, especially fat intake, is the most important factor contributing to obesity. Secondary factors include endocrine and metabolic factors.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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