Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluation of Metabolic Syndrome in Adults of Talca City, Chile

Version: 1 Date: 4 January 2008

Reviewer: Chien-Jen J Chen

Reviewer's report:

This is a cross-sectional survey of prevalence of metabolic syndrome in adults of Talca City in Chile. Based on the ATPIII and IDF criteria, the prevalence of metabolic syndrome was 36.4% and 29.5%, respectively. There was significant gender and age difference in metabolic syndrome. This study was executed and analyzed appropriately.

However, there are several suggestions on minor essential revisions:

1) The English writing needs to be corrected by an English editor.
2) In line 3 of Table 1, (%) after 339 and 668 may be deleted.
3) In Table 2, BMI should be spelled out and the unit of BMI should be revised as kg/m².
4) In Table 2, the unit for waist circumference should be revised as cm.
5) Table 3 may be deleted with its content described in the text.
6) It may be more appropriate to show the observed age-specific prevalence of metabolic syndrome according to two criteria rather than the probability derived from the generalized additive model in the Figure 1.
7) Figure 2 may be deleted with its content described in the text.
8) A new table to compare the prevalence of metabolic syndrome observed in this study and those in other Asian Pacific countries will be helpful.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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

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