Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 6 January 2008

Reviewer: Albert Csaszar

Reviewer’s report:

IT IS TRUTH THAT THIS ARTICLE HAS AN UNIQUE FEATURE REPORTING FIRSTLY ABOUT PREVALENCE OF THE METABOLIC SYNDROME IN LATIN AMERICAN POPULATION DEFINED BY IDF CRITERIAS. BECAUSE THESE DATA ARE FAILING IN THE LITRETURE UNTILLNOW I RECOMMEND THE PUBLICATION BUT SOME POINTS NEED TO BE CLARIFIED AS MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS.

1) WE ARE MANY NOT FAMILIAR WITH EPIDEMIOLOGICAL METHODS AND THE "PROBABILISTIC POLIETAPIC SAMPLING SCHEME" WOULD MERIT ONE SENTENCE FOR EXPLANATION.

2) IN RESULTS: THE PREVALENSES OF MS AFTER ADJUSTING FOR AGE AND SEX ARE UNUSUALLY HIGH. I ASSUME THAT THE CONVERSION IS INCORRECT. THEY SHOULD CHECK IT USING THE METHOD DEFINED IN DECODA STUDY GROUP'S PAPER (DIABETES RES CLIN PRACT 2007 APR,76(1):57) WHERE THE PREVALENSES OF MS IN ASIAN POPULATION ARE INCLUDED WHICH VALUES ARE MUCH LOWER.

3) HOWEVER ANY EARLIER DATA EXISTS BY IDF DEFINITY, TWO NEW ARTICLES REPORT ABOUT THE PREVALENSES BY NCEP ATP III IN LATIN AMERICA CONCERNING A SEMI-RURAL AREA IN CHILE (NUTR METAB CARDIOVASC DIS 2007 OCT, 17:581, CLIMACTERIC 2007 APR, 10:438) WHICH SEEM TO BE VALUE TO REFER.

4) IT WOULD BE PROFITABLE TO COMMENT BRIEFLY THE PRACTICAL USEFULNESS OF ETHNIC SPECIFIC WC VALUES.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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.