Reviewer's report

Title: Diabetes Mellitus Type 2 and other Chronic Non-communicable Diseases in the Central Region, Saudi Arabia (Riyadh Cohort 2): A Decade of an Epidemic

Version: 1 Date: 13 March 2011

Reviewer: Nico Nagelkerke

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting study of an important problem, namely the rise of DM-2 and its risk factors on the Arabian Peninsula.

However, the ms would be improved after the following Minor Essential Revisions

1. How was age standardization carried out? What was the reference population etc.
2. FPG was apparently not defined as fasting Plasma Glucose
3. FPG values depend crucially on compliance with fasting instructions. Were any other measures of DM-2 measured, such as HbA1c?
4. Authors mention Metabolic Syndrome as risk factor. However, this syndrome is itself defined (with 2 competing definition) in terms of, inter alia, glucose resistance. Also, the "syndrome" has been heavily criticized (Kahn, 2006). It may therefore be wise to avoid its use as a "risk factor" if possible.
5. Is it possible to publish the raw data alongside its analysis? Or mention how the original data can be obtained?
6. Authors mention the "patriarchal society" as a risk factor. This is very speculative, which should be made clear, e.g. by writing "Furthermore, perhaps, the kingdom..."

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests