Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence of and Factors associated with Sarcopenia among Multi-Ethnic Ambulatory Older Asians with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus in a primary care setting

Version: 0 Date: 09 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Ding-Cheng Chan

Reviewer's report:

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The study discussed the prevalence and factors of sarcopenia among type 2 DM patients in Singapore. However, the sample is not population representative, and just from a single clinic. The clinical significance and external validity of such study needed to be addressed. Also, from the literature author reviewed, I am not sure if sarcopenia behave differently in patients with or without DM. The authors need to have a stronger rationale on why to limit study sample on DM patients.

Method:

Please explain why limit age to 89 years.

Please confirm if the index used is the appendicular skeletal muscle index or other type of skeletal muscle index.

Results:

The prevalence of low muscle mass (58%) is very high and also the sarcopenia prevalence. In general, DM patients are more obese than general population with more muscle. It is really difficult to imagine more than half of the study population had low muscle mass. In many other Asia studies, prevalence of low muscle mass is usually low.

Table 1, only 15 participants with severe sarcopenia, probably no need to separate a group.

Table 2: Please check data: difficult to explain why someone can do light house work, worked for pay increased risk of sarcopenia
Discussion:

The discussion on hip circumference and sarcopenia is difficult to comprehend.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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