Reviewer’s report

Title: ULTRASONOGRAPHIC PARAMETERS OF THE LIVER, SPLEEN AND KIDNEYS AMONG A COHORT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IN SRI LANKA

Version: 0 Date: 14 Mar 2016

Reviewer: Russell Horowitz

Reviewer's report:

Abstract:

Line 36: change "ultrsonography" to "ultrasonography"

Line 41: The study included children 6 to 13 years old as written in the methods. Please correct.

Line 45: commas should go at the end of "haematological" and "congestive". Spaces were inserted before the commas.

Background:

Line 76-77: Are you stating that the bedside methods of palpation are less reliable than sonographic measurements? If so, please provide reference.

Line 77-78: Provide reference for the statement: "The spleen, liver and renal sizes vary with somatic paramaters"

Line 87: "specially" does not work grammatically here; consider "particularly"

Line 89: eliminate the redundant "and" between "inexpensive" and "noninvasive"

Line 96: change spelling of "ultesonographic" to "ultrasonographic"

Methods:

Line 102: Change to "357 children from 6 to 13 years of age".

How were the schools selected? What is meant by "random selection"?

Line 114: Should this read "interviewer administered questionnaire"?
Line 115: Change the sentence to: "A medical officer conducted the physical examination. The weight was ..." What is meant by a medical officer? How is this different from a "trained examiner" listed on line 117?

Line 119: Please include information about where the Phillips HD 6 is made/purchased from

Lines 119 - Who performed the ultrasound measurements? How many people did the exams? What was their level of training? If there was more than one person, please provide information about inter-observer assessment, if available. If there was more than one person, how many studies were performed by each person.

Line 135: Should read "analyzed" not "analyses"

Line 136: What is meant by "regression analysis(Enter)"

Results:
I don't see any mention of the figures in the text of the results section.

Line 144: Please correct language. This may read "... all the parents consented. Twenty five children were excluded ..."

Line 145: Spell out "2". "Two children with abnormal..."

Please detail which exclusion criteria eliminated the particular number of patients

Line 149: Please change to "Table 01" to remain consistent with table labeling

Line 151: Please change to "Tables 02-05" to remain consistent with table labeling

Line 176-177: You state that this is the largest study of this kind but on line 96 you state there are NO published studies. Please clarify which.

Conclusion:

Line 201: Capitalize the L in "longitudinal"

The conclusion simply summarizes the results. Please include a discussion about why this study matters. Considering moving lines 194-198 to the conclusion.
Figures:
Please include mention of "percentiles" to the numbers and lines on the right of each figure

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.

Yes

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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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