Reviewer’s report

Title: Overweight in children and its perception by parents: cross-sectional observation in a general pediatric outpatient clinic

Version: 1 Date: 10 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Olivier Drouin

Reviewer's report:

Abstract:

The last two sentences of the Methods "The study was conducted at a general pediatric outpatient clinic in Vienna, Austria. A total of 600 children (aged 0-14 years) participated in the study." should be placed at the beginning of this section of the abstract

Background

Odds Ratio (OR) should be spelled out at first occurrence in the text (Page 3, line 52)

Punctuation should be revised. Many commas are missing and some commas should be periods. (Example: Page 4, line 47, or the Page 5, line 1-5). This is true throughout the text. Brackets are open and not closed, periods are repeated…

"Most of the studies investigating this topic were conducted in kindergartens, schools or pediatric clinics. In contrast this study was conducted at a general pediatric outpatient clinic," (Page 4 line 25-30). Can the author specify what is the difference they see between "pediatric clinics" and "general pediatric outpatient clinics"?

English quality still needs to be much improved. For example: "This effect is mainly accounted for by a combination of genetic or behavioral factors is, as parents have a strong influence on their children's eating and drinking habits as well as on their activity levels." (Page 4, lines 5-10)

The word factors is repeated twice in the first objective.

Materials and Methods

Throughout the manuscript (and especially salient in the statistical analysis section), the passive voice for most verbs is used. An active voice verb would be preferable.
Results:

The authors should be careful in reviewing their manuscript, as in many cases, repetitions are found such as in line 12-20 of page 8: "Compared to previous reported data on Austrian children, numbers on overweight and obesity were slightly lower in this study, compared to the Austrian obesity report." Or Page 9, line 27-30: "While 62.8% of the whole study population had at least one overweight parent, in 17.5% both parents were overweight in 17.5% of the cases."

Page 8, lines 25-42. It is difficult to know what to understand of this data. A table form would allow easier comparison.

Page 8, line 49-52: "The relevant data can be seen in Figure 1. Even if this was significant in multivariate analysis. (p 0.667)" What does this p-value refers to?

There are several fragments of sentences are left incomplete, or are missing words, for example: "Overweight seems to be a bit more common in only children (13.7% vs 8.3%, p 0.087)", or in this sentence on line 1 of page 10: "When comparing mean number of siblings in overweight with normal weight children."

Authors should be cautious of drawing conclusions based on non-statistically significant results. One of many example is found on line 37 of page 11: "Consequently, boys are at greater risk of being misjudged by their parents regarding overweight, even if this was not significant..

The number of decimals in reporting p-values is not consistent(sometimes 2 decimals are used, sometimes 3).

Tables

Why is each table presented twice? Table 3 is even presented three times.

Tables 4 and 5: a 95% Confidence interval should be shown for the odds ratio

Figures

The graphic quality of every figure is poor (resolution is too low), not allowing a proper assessment of their scientific quality

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

Yes
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 am able to assess the statistics

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

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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