Reviewer's report

Title: Development of waist circumference percentiles for Japanese children and an examination of their screening utility for childhood metabolic syndrome - a population-based cross-sectional study

Version: 4 Date: 8 October 2015

Reviewer: Kee Chee Cheong

Reviewer's report:

major compulsory revisions

For the WC cutoff at 90th percentile, ROC curve analysis showed that AUC was 0.5386 (95% CI: 0.528–0.55), which is indicating poor discriminative ability (also low sensitivity & specificity) of this cutoff in identifying childhood MetS (result section: page 8, 19-22). Therefore, this cutoff may not appropriate for the screening of childhood MetS.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests