Reviewer’s report

Title: Abdominal vs. overall obesity status among women in a nutrition transition context: geographic and socio-economic patterning in Tunisia

Version: 1 Date: 24 August 2014

Reviewer: Randah R R Hamadeh

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. The paper requires language and sentence structure editing.

2. Title needs to be revised. It should not be that long and should not have vs. in it. Further, “patterning” needs to be changed.

3. Methods:
   - Definitions of the variables needs to be added.
   - How was educational level, occupation and welfare data attained?
   - Data collection requires further detail.
   - Table 1 and related description is mentioned in both methods and results. It should be deleted from methods.
   - (Person-check®, Kirchner & Wilhelm, Germany) and Detecto should be referenced and removed from text.
   - Training field agents??
   - Ethics: Remove authorization number. Not needed.

4. Results:
   - "There was a +23.4% [21.0-25.6] (P<0.0001)" lines 5-6 should note that it was statistically significant. No need for both CI and p-value.

5. Discussion:
   - Long requires shortening.
   - "Prevalence of abdominal than overall of obesity, even greater than that observed in the few other large scale studies with comparable data in the MENA region". This is an assumption so "probably" should be written.
   - It is very surprising to have only 19.4% of the women having an education of secondary and more. This should be commented on in the discussion. Is it similar to the general population distribution?

6. Conclusion: Long requires shortening.
7. References:
- The references (58) need to be decreased
- Od unnecessary references need to be deleted.
- Biostatistics books like references 14,16, 21 and 22 should be deleted.
-WHO references need to be updated.

8. Tables:
- Titles need to be revised. For example, Table 1 -" Distribution of place of residence, physiological and socio-economic factors among 35-70 year-old Tunisian women (n=2964)." should be " Tunisian women by place of residence, physiological and socio-economic factors".

Discretionary Revisions:
- Tables 3 and 4 are too busy. Consider making them simpler.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I have no competing interests.