Reviewer’s report

Title: Chronic disease and malnutrition biomarkers among unemployed immigrants and Canadian born adults

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Reviewer: Etienne Cavalier

Reviewer's report:

The authors report here some biological interesting findings in Canadian born and immigrants living in Canada.

In such large studies, shortcomings are difficult to avoid and this study has some of them, acknowledged by the authors.

A major one is that the term "immigrants" is used for both refugees and people who migrate to Canada in a positive program of immigration. Indeed, Canada has a policy of positive immigration and these two types of "immigrants" are probably totally different, regarding level of education, employment rate and health status. Also, incomes are totally different, as well as access to healthy food and activities, social behaviour and employment. I thus think that a stratification should be made between refugees and immigrants.

The social status, even in Canadian citizens, is quite different and this should be taken into consideration to fine-tune the analysis.

The authors use CRP as an inflammatory marker, but they have actually measured hs-CRP, which is rather a cardiovascular risk factor. The results should be analysed accordingly.

Another major issue is the use of CRP, defined as an "inflammatory marker". Indeed, the authors used hsCRP (actually, this information does not figure in the text, but only in the table). At these levels, hsCRP is a marker of cardiovascular risk, not inflammation. This should be corrected

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