Reviewer’s report

Title: The correlation between supermarket size and national obesity prevalence.

Version: 2 Date: 11 October 2014

Reviewer: Mansi Chopra

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Peer Reviewer: Ms. Mansi Chopra

The peer review is for the article titled “The correlation between supermarket size and national obesity prevalence.”

Adrian J Cameron, Wilma E Waterlander and Chalida M Svastisalee

1. Is the question posed original, important and well defined?

The question posed by the authors is easily identifiable and understood. As claimed by the authors, studies assessing the relationship between supermarket size and obesity have rarely been done. The results and discussions are in line with the study objectives as well.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?

The methods used for data collection are appropriate with the study objectives and design. The methodology used for the study is detailed in their previous publication as stated by the authors.

Discretionary Revisions: Using one method to measure aisle length of supermarkets across all the countries would provide reliable results as compared to use of different techniques as done in this study.

3. Are the data sound?

The data collected is in line with the objective of the study. Complete methodology used is described in the previous publication.

Discretionary Revisions: Some part of the discussion and conclusions, are not directly reported from the results obtained. Lifestyle factors, though, already known from studies done elsewhere, are important risk factors in causing an increase in overweight and obesity, but the study does not involve obtaining information on these parameters.

4. Do the figures appear to be genuine i.e. without evidence of manipulation?

The figure provided seems to be genuine without any evidence of manipulation.

Minor Essential Revisions: Figure legends need to be checked for spacing and unit for obesity prevalence should be added.

5. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data
deposition?

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. Reference numbers provided in the text are not in line with the journal requirements. The reference numbers must be in square brackets, thus the authors need to change the format of the reference numbers.

2. Reference style used at the end of the manuscript are not conforming with the journal guidelines, hence they should be re-done as per the journal requirements.

6. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?

The interpretation of data has been supported by other studies and relevant references have been used. The results are interpreted in an unbiased manner, where both positive and negative results have been given equal importance. The discussions and conclusions are well balanced and are adequately supported by the data and studies done elsewhere.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Paragraph 2 under the ‘Discussion Section,’ involves some statements that are not directly reported from the study results. These statements need to be revised.

2. The results presented in the manuscript, can be better presented in a table form, for a clearer understanding.

7. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?

Discretionary Revisions: Lifestyle factors, including diet and physical activity, are important contributors to the obesity prevalence; hence information on these factors can strengthen the results of the study and can provide a better picture of the overall prevalence, rather than just focusing on body weight data.

8. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building both published and unpublished?

The authors clearly acknowledge their work with respect to studies done elsewhere.

9. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?

The title and abstract convey the results of the study.

Minor Essential Revisions: The ‘Results’ and ‘Conclusions’ section of the abstract are not directly reported from the obtained results, as data on reasons for the association obtained between average store size length and national obesity prevalence in the manuscript are not obtained. Thus, these statements must be re-written.

10. Is the writing acceptable?
The writing is acceptable.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

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