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Wan Chai, Hong Kong, China

ESPS Peer-review Report

Name of Journal: World Journal of Cardiology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 2670

Title: Waist circumference, waist-to-height ratio, and waist to hip ratio percentiles for Yemeni children aged six to nineteen years: the HYDY study

Reviewer code: 00631973

Science editor: Song, Xiu-Xia

Date sent for review: 2013-03-07 14:19

Date reviewed: 2013-05-14 18:36

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript entitled, “Waist circumference, waist-to-height ratio, and waist to hip ratio percentiles for Yemeni children aged six to nineteen years: the HYDY study.” By Bamoshmoosh M et al. deals with central obesity in Yemeni children and young adults. It was a cross-sectional population-based survey where 1552 girls and 1567 boys aged 6 to 19 years were enrolled in the Hypertension and Diabetes in Yemen (HYDY) study. They measured body weight, height, waist circumference (WC) and hip circumferences and calculated Waist to hip ratio (WHR) and waist-to-height ratio (WHtR). Their results show that average WC increased with age for both boys and girls although boys had a higher WC than girls until early adolescence, however, girls had higher values than boys in the later part. WHR has been shown to decrease both in boys and girls until early adolescence. Thereafter while it plateaued in boys, it continued to decrease in girls. They conclude that in Yemeni children central obesity indices percentile curves was more prevalent in urban sedentary subjects. While it is good study, it would have been nice if you could elaborate on statistical methods used, like how were the percentiles calculated etc.



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Name of Journal: World Journal of Cardiology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 2670

Title: Waist circumference, waist-to-height ratio, and waist to hip ratio percentiles for Yemeni children aged six to nineteen years: the HYDY study

Reviewer code: 00742483

Science editor: Song, Xiu-Xia

Date sent for review: 2013-03-07 14:19

Date reviewed: 2013-05-18 02:18

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Overall this is a useful study of central adiposity among Yemeni children and youth. The main limitation is that there is no external standard (such as total body fat measure) for comparison. Some comments follow. 1. Change the first word of the introduction from "children" to "childhood". Read the paper carefully for language. 2. In the methods section relating to Study Sites and Study Population mention the target population. Was this a representative sample of the entire country? 3. In the Data Collection section mention the following: make and model of the scales used to measure weight, and whether or not they were calibrated. If there are data on inter and intra observer agreement of measures mention this here. This is particularly important for waist measures. 4. Two decimal places for p-values are sufficient. 5. Please make sure that manuscript is consistent with the STROBE guidelines (www.thelancet.com Vol 370 October 20, 2007). This is particularly necessary for the discussion. There is no mention of limitations and their potential impact on the results and interpretation. 6. The main issue in interpretation of percentiles in the absence of an external standard (or reference population) for comparison is that it does not account for a shift of the entire distribution. The authors could consider using BMI z-scores as the external standard. Overweight and obese categories estimated from BMI z-scores (which based on a reference population). Even though the agreement between measures of central adiposity and BMI are not perfect, the BMI measures are anchored against a reference population. 7. What is MCA countries? Please spell out for the first time. 8. The differences in physical activity levels among females in Yemen and Turkey may also be related to other factors such as weather, presence of sidewalks and parks, and attitudes of males towards women walking for leisure. This may be related more to



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culture than to Islam. (I am Muslim.)