Reviewer's report

Title: Health related quality of life of obese adolescents in Kuwait

Version: 1 Date: 29 March 2013

Reviewer: Chung-Ying Lin

Reviewer's report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions

1. I agree with the authors that most studies on HRQL of obese children are from Western countries; however, there is not only one Asian study as the authors described in their manuscript. I suggest the authors reading the following published papers in Asia countries, and discussing in their manuscript.


In addition, one reference (Reference No. 15) is based on Israel population, which cannot be seen as Western population.

2. The PedsQL contains 8-12 year-old and 13-16 year-old versions and the participants in this study were aged 10-14 years old. Please describe whether both versions were used in this study, or the authors applied only one version (if so, which version was it).

3. Please describe the psychometric properties of the PedsQL Arabic version, including both child self-reports and the parent proxy-reports. If there is no published study on psychometric properties of the Arabic version, please provide the Cronbach’s # value of each subscale and of the total score in this study.

4. The authors mentioned that all the data were checked for normality, but did not provide the values (i.e., skewness and kurtosis). I would like to know the values of each subscales and of the total scores for child self-reports and for the parent proxy-reports. I suppose that the data were not normally distributed because that the authors used non-parametric analyses for comparisons. However, the authors did not mention the rationale of using non-parametric analyses.

5. The authors mentioned that they lack the Arabian Gulf data for power calculation, and thus used the suggestions of sample size from the study of Hughes et al. However, I consider this may not be relevant because the sample size calculation of Hughes et al was not based on the Arabian Gulf data, either.
Therefore, I suggest deleting this paragraph.

6. The authors mentioned that age and gender may have impact on HRQL on page 10; however, this should be described in the Background section for coherent. I suggest reading the following papers, and add some information in the Background section:

(1) Cremeens J, Eiser C, Blades M. Factors influencing agreement between child self-report and parent proxy-reports on the Pediatric Quality of Life Inventory 4.0 (PedsQL) generic core scales. Health Qual Life Outcomes 2006, 4:58.


7. Please also provide the demographic information (i.e., age, BMI, and BMI Z score, and the frequency of the grade year) of the matched sample, which would help readers understand the characteristics of the compared sample.

8. The authors need to correct their IQR (interquartile range) values. IQR, which is corresponding to SD, is Q3 minus Q1. Therefore, the IQR is not a range, but a value only.


10. Previous studies discuss the agreement and relationship between child-reported and parent-reported PedsQL. Because the authors used both methods to measure obese children’s HRQL, please read the following studies, and integrate these studies in the manuscript.

(1) Cremeens J, Eiser C, Blades M. Factors influencing agreement between child self-report and parent proxy-reports on the Pediatric Quality of Life Inventory 4.0 (PedsQL) generic core scales. Health Qual Life Outcomes 2006, 4:58.


(5) Upton, P., Eiser, C., Cheung, W.Y., Hutchings, H., Jenney, M., Maddocks, A.,
Russell, I., & Williams, J.G. Measurement properties of the UK-English version of the pediatric quality of life inventorytm 4.0 (pedsqol) generic core scales Health and Qual Life Outcomes, 2005, 3:22

11. Please provide the information of increased # and R2 on page 10. In addition to the total score, I suggest using physical summary score and psychosocial summary score as another two outcome variables, and analyzing the impact of age, gender, and weight status on them. And discuss the new findings.

12. The authors found that the impact of obesity on HRQL is less serious in Kuwait than in other countries. This is an interesting finding; however, the authors only mentioned the reason might be due to cultural difference. I suggest the authors discussing this part further, for example, what kind of cultural difference? Do Kuwait adolescents love obese shape rather than lean shape? In addition, we still can find that Kuwaiti obese adolescents have impaired physical HRQL, which is corresponding to the other countries. I think the main difference HRQL performance between Kuwait and other countries is on Psychosocial HRQL. Therefore, the culture may impact their psychosocial HRQL (e.g., the society likes the obese children; obese is a good image in the society, etc.), but not on their physical HRQL (e.g., obese children really feel tired).

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Lots of equal marks are not used in this manuscript (e.g., 95%CI -1.5, -9.4; IQR 78.3-96.7; p 0.05; n 500; median age 12.4 y). These should be corrected into “95%CI = -1.5, -9.4”; “IQR =”; “p = 0.05”; “n = 500”; “median age = 12.4 y”.

2. The format of the references part needs to be corrected.
(4) EI Ghaziri should be written as EI-Ghaziri
(7) T M Palermo should be written as Palermo TM, and the following authors should be re-written.
(10) Al Fayez should be written as Al-Fayez
(11) C Eiser should be written as Eiser C, and the following authors should be re-written.
(14) J B Schwimmer should be written as Schwimmer JB, and the following authors should be re-written.
(16) J Williams should be written as Williams J, and the following authors should be re-written.
(17) A Riazi should be written as Riazi A, and the following authors should be re-written.
(19) K A Kraig should be written as Kraig KA, and the following authors should be re-written.
(20) L P Richardson should be written as Richardson LP, and the following
authors should be re-written.

(21) C Braet should be written as Braet C, and the following authors should be re-written.

In addition to the above part that I mentioned, I suggest the authors checking their reference format more carefully.

3. The abstract used the term of “quality of life”, while the main text used the term of “health-related quality of life (HRQL).” Therefore, I would suggest to use HRQL in the abstract, and to change the key word of “quality of life” into “HRQL”, which makes the manuscript consistent.

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

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

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests