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Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	2013_IJTDH_5864
Title of the Manuscript:	Increased High Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol and Total Cholesterol Levels in Traders with Metabolic Syndrome in an Apparently Healthy Nigerian Population
Type of the Article	Research Paper

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	In this manuscript titled "Increased High Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol and Total Cholesterol Levels in Traders with Metabolic Syndrome in an Apparently Healthy Nigerian Population" the authors have performed a simple association analysis to identify relationships among components of metabolic syndrome (MS) among Nigerian traders and changes in metabolic syndrome biomarkers between those with MS and without MS. The purpose of the study was to identify specific alterations of metabolic biomarkers in individuals with metabolic syndrome. This manuscript is well written and the results are interesting. The paper is descriptive but informative. However, I have some specific comments: Introduction: Although the term metabolic syndrome is widely used in research and clinical practice, its definition, underlying pathogenesis, association with cardiovascular disease is still controversial. Attempting to define it with a limited number of variables makes the situation still worse. MS can be defined according to either one of the commonly used diagnostic criteria: the WHO, National Cholesterol Education Program Adult Treatment Panel III (NCEP ATP III), and the International Diabetes Federation (IDF). Therefore, it would be helpful for readers if the rationale for using the IDF criterion is	Thanks for your comments and concern. The study has been thoroughly revised to accommodate your concerns and suggestions. Significant oxidative stress and inflammation were observed but were reduced by dietary intervention. This observation has been reported elsewhere and cited in this present manuscript. The materials and method section of the manuscript has been thoroughly revised. Specific criteria used and method of recruitment is now clearly defined and informs changes in results and title of the study. The IDF criteria (2005) was used because the data reported was part of a cohort study on Risk Assessment of Diabetes in Individuals with MS in Ibadan, Nigeria. The data on different stages of hypertension has also been reported elsewhere and is cited in manuscript. However, the relationship between oxidative stress and hypertension has not been reported by us.



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	presented. The components of MS: waist circumference as a surrogate for central obesity, dyslipidemia, blood pressure, and glucose levels used in this study are described as they are important components of metabolic syndrome defined by all of the above three criteria. However, it would also be helpful to expand the discussion on the role of oxidative stress in the MS and its components both in the introduction and discussion. The purpose of the study as indicated in the last sentence of the introduction sounds pretty vague. Please rephrase the sentence as mentioned in the abstract, "to identify specific alterations of metabolic biomarkers in individuals with or without MS". Subjects and Methods: Statistical methods are appropriate and the sample size is rather moderate. It would be helpful to see a brief description on the recruitment strategy of the study subjects. Are these study subjects unrelated? Please mention. Results and discussion: In table 1, it would be more informative if the names of the components are included in the table in addition to just the number of components. In table 2, is the MS group defined by the IDF criteria or the presence of one or more MS components? As shown in table 2, data were collected on several variables, but associations were not presented for all of them. Please explain.	
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	In Table 3, is the title appropriate for the contents of the table 3? Sex and obesity variables are not presented in this table. Please clarify. In the discussion of results, it is surprising that oxidative stress was not mentioned especially in the light of the very fact that a substantial number of traders (85%) are hypertensive. In conclusion, the sentence “ The finding of only 11% ...and most of them - 229 (42.9%) with 2 components of MS suggests that Nigerians are unhealthy” may be rephrased to reflect that 43% of traders appear to have an unhealthy metabolic profile or something along those lines instead of generalizing that Nigerians are unhealthy. Also, is it not counter intuitive to the very title of the study that “Increased high density...in an apparently healthy Nigerian population”?	
<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	In the abstract results, third line, ‘in’ is missing. It should read ...higher <u>in</u> MS and non-MS groups ..., right? It would be desirable to see a discussion on possible mechanisms underlying increased HDL-C levels in Nigerian traders. Are they physically active? Or is it attributable to their diet or ethnicity? In reference 5, author names are switched. It may be corrected.	
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	A brief discussion on whether the observed association between MS and blood pressure has any bearing to oxidative stress in this population would strengthen the manuscript.	



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