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Predictive formulas for estimation of height in sub-Saharan African older people: a new
 formula (EPIDEMCA study)

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- 25 Short running head: Estimation of height in sub-Saharan African elderly.
- 26 Conflict of interest: none

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37 Abstract

Background: Chumlea's formulas are means of predicting height from knee height (KHt), including among people aged over 60 years who cannot get upright. However, they were developed in Caucasian and African-American people and have not yet been validated in older native Africans. The aims of the study were (i) to assess Chumlea's formulas in older people in Central Africa and (ii) to propose a new validated formula in the same population.

43 *Methods*: Height (MHt) and KHt were measured in a population of people over 65 years old 44 from the Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic. Predicted height (PHt) was 45 calculated using Chumlea's formulas for the American black population (CBP) and for 46 Caucasian (CC). The percentages of accurate predictions (\pm 5 cm) were compared between 47 MHt and PHt. A new formula was estimated after randomization in a derivation sample 48 (n=877) and assessed for accuracy in a validation sample (n=877).

Results: A total of 1754 individuals were included. Prediction was accurate (± 5cm) in 66.8% and 63.2% of CBP and CC, respectively. Overestimation was as high as 24.1% and 29.0%, respectively. As such an overestimation is unacceptable in clinical practice and population surveys, a new formula was proposed: height(cm) = 72.75 + (1.86 * KHt[cm]) - (0.13 * age[years]) + 3.41 * sex (0: women; 1: men). This new formula significantly increases accuracy (71.3%) and decreases overestimation (14.7%). The nutritional status based on body mass index was not different with the MHt and the PHt by the new formula.

56 *Conclusion*: Chumlea's formulas provided a poor estimate of height in this population 57 sample. The proposed formula more accurately estimates height in older native Africans. This 58 formula should be tested in other sub-Saharan African countries in order to extend its use in 59 clinical practice and in future studies.

- 60 Key words: norms, reference equation, anthropometric data, ageing, body mass index,
- 61 ethnicity

63 **Abbreviation list**

- 64 BMI: body mass index
- 65 CAR: Central African Republic
- 66 CBP: Chumlea's formula for non-hispanic black people
- 67 CC: Chumlea's formula for Caucasian people
- 68 ICC: intraclass correlation coefficients
- 69 IQR: interquartile range
- 70 MHt: Measured height
- 71 n: number
- 72 PHt: predicted height
- 73 P-M: predicted height minus measured height
- 74 ROC: Republic of Congo
- 75 R²: coefficient of determination
- 76 SD: standard deviation

78 Introduction

79 Nutritional status is often assessed using body mass index (BMI), which requires height for its 80 calculation [1]. In epidemiological studies and clinical practice, height may be difficult to 81 measure in older adults because of an inability to stand upright (due to physical disability or 82 spinal distortion). In those instances, an alternative way of estimating height in older adults is 83 essential in order to accurately assess nutritional status. Chumlea et al. [2–4] proposed several 84 formulas with which to estimate height using knee height (KHt) in different populations including African Americans. To the best of the authors' knowledge, these formulas have not 85 86 been validated in older native central Africans. Despite, the lack of validation of these 87 formulas in sub-Saharan populations, some studies conducted in Africa used different formula 88 to predict height of older people [5–7]. Numerous recent studies have looked at nutritional 89 status in older adults from sub-Saharan Africa [5,6,8-18]. Due to a lack of data on height, 90 BMI could not be calculated in 2.5 to 6.5% of the populations in several studies in Africa 91 [5,8,19,20]. Recently, our research team studied these formulas in Benin and found an 92 accurate prediction of height (±5 cm) close to 80% [21]. The aims of this study were: i) to 93 assess the validity of three Chumlea's formulas to provide predicted height (PHt) in older 94 people from central Africa; ii) if validation failed, to propose a new formula for estimation of 95 height for this population; and iii) to compare BMI and nutritional status according to measured height (MHt) and PHt. 96

98 **Population and Methods**

99 Study Design

100 The EPIDEMCA study is a multicenter population-based cross-sectional survey in rural and 101 urban areas in the Central African Republic (CAR - Bangui and Nola) and in the Republic of 102 Congo (ROC - Brazzaville and Gamboma). Conducted between November 2011 and 103 December 2012, its main objective was to assess the prevalence of dementia and to 104 investigate its risk factors. The sample size was estimated a priori at 500 in each study site. In 105 urban areas, participant selection was carried out stratified by city subdivision, with random 106 sampling proportional to the size of each subdivision. In rural areas, exhaustive sampling 107 using a door-to-door approach was adopted for logistic and financial reasons. The detailed 108 methodology is described in an open-access publication [22].

109 Inclusion criteria

Individuals 65 years of age and older who lived in the study areas at the time were included.
Those who declined to participate or presented severe comorbidities (cancers, bedridden condition,) carrying a high risk of death, which did not allow longitudinal follow-up for future studies were excluded.

114 Ethics

Approval was obtained from the ethical committees supervised by the Ministry of Public Health in CAR, the *Comité d'Éthique de la Recherche en Sciences de Santé* in ROC, and the *Comité de Protection des Personnes du Sud-Ouest et d'Outre-Mer 4* in France. All participants and/or their families gave informed consent prior to inclusion in the study. Written consent was obtained where feasible. For illiterate people, the study's objectives were verbally explained and consent was obtained by thumbprint.

121 Anthropometric measurements

Anthropometric measurements were performed by 10 medical students (at least in their 6th 122 123 year), from Bangui and Brazzaville Universities. All students were specifically trained in 124 order to limit the inter-measurer bias. Weight (kg) was measured in an upright position to the 125 nearest 100g using a portable mechanical balance with a weighing capacity of 10 to 150 kg (SecaTM Hamburg, Germany). MHt (cm) was determined at the nearest centimeter using a 126 127 carpenter's measure along as flat a surface as possible, such as a door or a wall. KHt (cm) was 128 measured in all participants with a paediatric height scale to the nearest centimeter on the 129 right leg with an angle of 90° between the thigh and the leg in a supine position according to 130 Chumlea et al. [2]. The paediatric height scale was placed in line with the lateral malleolus 131 and the head of the fibula; with the soft tissue compressed, the distance from the sole of the 132 foot to the top of the thigh immediately above the condyles of the femur was measured. BMI 133 was calculated by dividing the weight in kilograms by the height in meters squared and 134 rounded to 1 decimal place [1]. Undernutrition was defined as BMI < 18.5 kg/m², normal 135 status as BMI between 18.5 and 24.9 kg/m², overweight as BMI between 25 and 29.9 kg/m² 136 and obesity as BMI \geq 30 kg/m² [1].

137 Estimation of height using Chumlea's formulas

138 Chumlea et al. developed several formulas for estimation of height according to the 139 population. In this study, two Chumlea's formulas were used, one for non-Hispanic American 140 black people (CBP) and one for Caucasian (CC) as used in the study of Marais et al. in a 141 mixed population in South Africa (black African and Caucasian people) [4,7].

142 CBP [2]:

height (cm) = 79.69 + (1.85 * KHt[cm]) - (0.14 * age[years]) for men (coefficient of determination [R²]): 70.0%)

145 height (cm) = 89.58 + (1.61 * KHt[cm]) - (0.17 * age[years]) for women (R²: 63.0%)

146 CC [4,7]:

147 height(cm) = 59.01 + (2.08 * KHt[cm]) for men (R²: 68.0%)

148 height(cm) = 75.00 + (1.91 * KHt[cm]) - (0.17 * age[years]) for women (R²: 59.0%).

149 Other data

Age was ascertained from official documents, by using historical events [23], or from aninformant. Sex and country of residence were also recorded.

152

153 Data analysis

154 Population description

155 Percentages and median with interquartile range (IQR) were used to describe the study156 sample.

157 Validation of Chumlea's formulas

158 The degree of agreement between PHt and MHt was assessed using Bland and Altman plots 159 and intraclass correlation coefficients (ICC) [24]. The percentage of difference and the 95% 160 limit of agreement were also computed. The mean percentage of difference between PHt and 161 MHt was calculated [21]. Based on clinical and epidemiological experience, a threshold of \pm 162 5 cm (3% of the MHt) was considered as an acceptable threshold for the difference between 163 the predicted and measured heights [21]. This threshold of ± 5 cm was used in a previous 164 study in Benin [21]. The percentage of accurate prediction (between - 5 cm and + 5 cm) was 165 accordingly calculated. A prediction over 5 cm was considered as an overestimation and 166 under 5 cm as an underestimation.

167 *Creation of a new formula*

168 After randomization, two subsamples were created: a derivation subsample (n = 877) to 169 construct the new formula, and a validation subscale (n = 877) to test it. Mann-Whitney and 170 Chi square tests were used to compare the two subsamples. The new formula was created 171 based on a linear multiple regression according to sex, age and KHt in the derivation 172 subsample. The coefficient of determination (\mathbb{R}^2) of the linear regression was calculated. 173 Accuracy of this new formula was tested on the validation subsample with Bland and Altman 174 plots and ICC [24]. The percentage of accurate predictions was also calculated with the 175 above-mentioned strategy and compared it to CBP.

176 BMI and nutritional status assessment

Mann-Whitney test was used to compare BMI calculated with MHt and with all PHt
formulas. Chi square test was used to compare nutritional status (undernutrition, normal,
overweight and obesity) with MHt and with all PHt formulas.

180

181 Data were analysed using GraphPad Prism 6.0 (GraphPad Software Inc, La Jolla, CA, USA)
182 and SAS[®] software v9.3 (SAS Institute, Cary, North Carolina, USA). A p-value <0.05 was
183 the limit of significance. STROBE statement was complied with [25].

185 Results

186 Characteristics of the participants

187 A total of 2,002 individuals 65 years of age and older were included in the EPIDEMCA

survey. Height was missing for 167 participants, KHt for 144 and weight for 94. In this study,

189 1,754 individuals (n=880 in ROC; n=874 in CAR) were analysed.

190

Table 1 shows the characteristics of the participants. Women accounted for 61.5%, with no significant differences between countries. ROC participants were significantly older than those from CAR (72.0 [68.0 – 78.0] vs. 71.0 [67.0 – 76.0] years, respectively - p= 0.004). The median MHt was 157.0 cm [150.5 – 164.0]; participants were significantly shorter in ROC than in CAR (156.0 [149.9 – 162.0] vs. 158.0 [153.0 – 165.0] cm, respectively - p < 0.001). Mean height was 164.0 cm [158.0 – 170.0] among men and 153.0 cm [148.0 – 158.4 among women (p < 0.001).

198 Validity of Chumlea's formulas in older adults from Central Africa

199Table 2 presents the accuracy of the PHt calculated using the two Chumlea formulas. Figure 1200shows the Bland and Altman plots for the total sample, ROC and CAR. The ICC was 0.77201(95% confidence interval [95%CI]: 0.71 - 0.82) and 0.78 (95%CI: 0.68 - 0.84) between MHt202and CBP and CC, respectively.

203 The percentages of accurate estimation by the two Chumlea formulas are shown by sex, age

and country in Figure 2. The percentage of accurate prediction was higher using CBP (66.8%)

compared to CC (63.2%, p =0.028). The agreement was lower among men 75 years of age

and older than in younger ones in both countries but not among women.

207 The CBP and CC overestimated height in 24.2% and 29.0% of cases, respectively.

208 New formulas for estimation of height for older central Africans

- 209 The deviation subsample and validation subsample were not significantly different (Table -1).
- 210 Using the derivation subsample, a new sex-adjusted formula was obtained:
- 211 Height(cm) = 72.75 + (1.86 * KHt[cm]) (0.13 * age[years]) + 3.41 * sex (0:
- 212 women; 1: men)
- 213 (R² of this model was 66.9%)

Results of the validation study are presented in Table 3. The ICC was 0.78 (95%CI: 0.76 - 0.81). The percentage of accurate predictions was 71.3% with the new formula and was significantly better than with CBP (65.3%, p = 0.008). Figure 3 shows the Bland and Altman plots for the two Chumlea's formulas and the new formula in the validation sample. The distribution of points was homogeneous between the three formulas studied. The majority of points was between the 95% limit of agreement.

220 Impact on nutritional status assessment

221 In the whole sample, the mean BMI calculated with the PHt with Chumlea's formulas (19.5 222 kg/m^2 [17.3 – 22.4], p<0.001 and 19.4 kg/m² [17.2 – 22.3], p< 0.001 with CBP, CC, 223 respectively) was significantly lower than when MHt was used $(20.1 \text{ kg/m}^2 [17.8 - 23.1])$. 224 Accordingly, the percentage of older adults with undernutrition was significantly lower when 225 BMI was calculated using MHt (34.3%) rather than PHt (38.7%, p = 0.008 and 40.1%, p =226 0.0004 with CBP and CC, respectively). However, in the whole sample BMI using PHt with 227 the new formula did not differ significantly from BMI using MHt (19.9 [17.7 - 23.0] vs. 20.1 228 [17.8 - 23.1] kg/m², respectively - p = 0.74). The percentage of undernutrition defined using 229 height estimated with the new formula did not differ significantly from that defined by MHt (34.3% vs. 34.3%, respectively - p = 1.00). Nutritional status using BMI according to the 230

- 231 MHT or PHt in the total sample and in the Republic of Congo and Central African Republic is
- 232 presented in table 4.

234 Discussion

235 To the best of the authors' knowledge, this study is the first to assess the validity of 236 Chumlea's predictive formulas for estimating height in older native central Africans. These 237 formulas require simple criteria for their use, such as age, sex and KHt [2]. KHt is the 238 fundamental measurement necessary for the application of these formulas. KHt should be 239 measured as recommended to avoid biasing the prediction of height [2]. These formulas have 240 been created and validated in different populations over 60 years old. Their main limitation is 241 the lack of validation of these formulas in sub-Saharan populations. Recent years have seen 242 an increase in nutritional studies in older adults in sub-Saharan Africa [5,6,8–18,20]. In the 243 absence of a validated formula, previous work used CBP and CC formulas. CBP was used in 244 Pilleron et al. and Samba et al., studies in Central Africa, [5,6,19], and CC was used in one 245 study in South Africa but in several ethnic groups [7]. According to the results of this study, 246 the validity of these formulas (CBP and CC) is not adequate in these two countries of Central 247 Africa (ROC and CAR). These formulas may lead to misclassification of individuals based on 248 BMI. Validated tools with which to assess height as accurately as possible when its 249 measurement is impossible are required. Therefore, a specific formula was created that 250 performed better and allowed for better categorisation of participants based on their 251 nutritional status as assessed by BMI. Chumlea's formulas tended to overestimate height in 252 this population leading to increased estimation of the prevalence of undernutrition, which is 253 not the case with the new formulas. However, CPB was better than the formula for Caucasian 254 applied in sub-Saharan populations. CC is not recommended for use in this population. 255 Moreover, CPB seems more reliable in other African countries such as Benin [21]. The 256 principal strengths of this study are the large sample size and the multicenter design including 257 rural and urban areas in two neighboring countries in central Africa. In addition, use of a more 258 precise formula validated in this specific population to estimate height would improve the

259 screening of nutritional disorders in elderly Africans in both epidemiological surveys and 260 clinical settings. The main aim is reliable screening of undernutrition in older sub-Saharan 261 African people, which is found in 8.3 to 34.7% and associated with chronic diseases [26]. 262 Information on the use of this simple tool should be developed in Africa. However, in these 263 populations, nutritional status may sometimes not be studied with the measurement of weight 264 and height even estimated, in the absence of appropriate measuring equipment. Other simple 265 anthropometric criteria can be used to screen undernutrition such as brachial circumference or 266 mid-upper arm muscle circumference requiring the measurement of the tricipital skin fold [5]. 267 Moreover, these anthropometric measurements are simple to obtain and require little 268 equipment (measuring tape and Harpenden caliper). This equipment is also more easily 269 transportable than a mechanical or electronic weight scale and a height scale, allowing easier 270 screening mainly in rural areas. Several limitations must also be acknowledged. 271 Anthropometric measurements may be subject to inter-measurer variability. However, all 272 researchers were specifically trained during three weeks and examiners were selected 273 according to their performances during the training [22]. This variability was probably 274 limited. The plastic height scales used during the survey may have been slightly deformed by 275 high temperatures, leading to small variations in measurement between the beginning and the 276 end of the survey. Moreover, some conditions such as knee arthrosis, rheumatoid arthritis 277 could modify the KHt measurement but to the best of the authors' knowledge, studies on this 278 subject have not been found. Patients with these conditions were not excluded. Validation of 279 the present formula in another independent sample of older people of CA is required. 280 Moreover the new formula could be validated in other countries of sub-Saharan Africa, for 281 example in Benin where height predictive formulas have also been studied [21].

283 Conclusion

In an older native African population, Chumlea's original formulas provide poor estimation of height. This could be overcome by creating population-specific formulas that are essential to the efficient screening of poor nutritional status (undernutrition and overweight/obesity) in older adults in SSA. It seems important to test this formula in other sub-Saharan African countries to develop its use in both epidemiologic surveys and clinical settings in sub-Saharan Africa.

290

291 Authors' contributions:

PJ, BM, SP, MG, PM, BNB, PMP and JCD designed the research; SP, MG, PM and BNB
provided databases; PJ and BM performed statistical analysis; PJ, BM, SP, MG, PMP, PF and
JCD wrote the paper. All authors approved the final manuscript.

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- Figure 1: Bland and Altman plots between measured height and predicted height with the two Chumlea's formulas in the total sample (n=1754), in the Republic of Congo (n=880) and the
- 299 Central African Republic (n=874).
- 300 Chumlea's formula for non-Hispanic Black people: A: in the total sample, B: in ROC, C: in
- 301 CAR; Chumlea's formula for Caucasian people: D: in total sample, E: in ROC, F: in CAR.
- 302 CAR: Central African Republic; ROC: Republic of Congo; SD: standard deviation.
- 303
- 304 Figure 2: Percentage of accurate prediction between measured height and height predicted
- using the two Chumlea formulas according to sex and age in the total sample (n=1754), in the
- 306 Republic of Congo (n=880) and Central African Republic (n=874).
- 307 Total Sample: A: men; B: women; Republic of Congo: C: men; D: women; Central African
- 308 Republic: E: men; F: women
- 309 Dark column: Chumlea's formula for non-Hispanic Black people; clear column: Chumlea's
- 310 formula for Caucasian people
- 311 CAR: Central African Republic; CBP: Chumlea's formula for non-Hispanic Black people;
- 312 CC: Chumlea's formula for Caucasian people; ROC: Republic of Congo.
- 313
- Figure 3: Bland and Altman graphics between the measured height and the height predicted using the three Chumlea formulas and the created formula in the validation subsample (n=877).
- A: Chumlea's formula for non-Hispanic Black people; B: Chumlea's formula for Caucasianpeople; C: Created formula.

319 SD: standard deviation

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Figure 1: Bland and Altman plots between measured height and predicted height with the two Chumlea's formulas in the total sample (n=1754), in Republic of Congo (n=880) and Central African Republic (n=874).

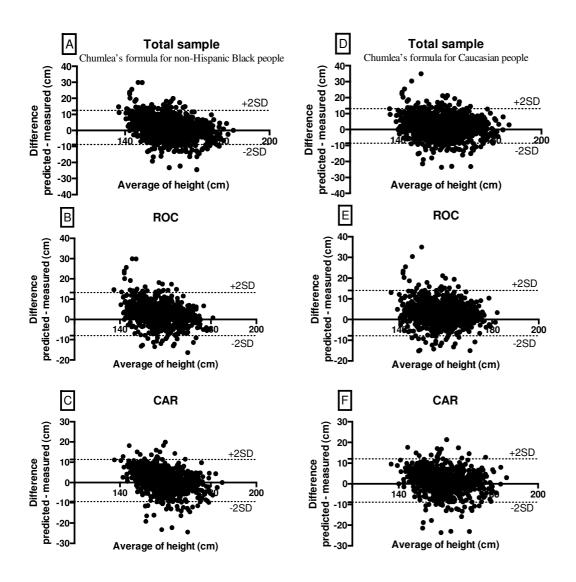


Figure 2: Percentage of accurate prediction between measured height and height predicted using the two Chumlea's formulas according to sex and age in the total sample (n=1754), in the Republic of Congo (n=880) and Central African Republic (n=874).

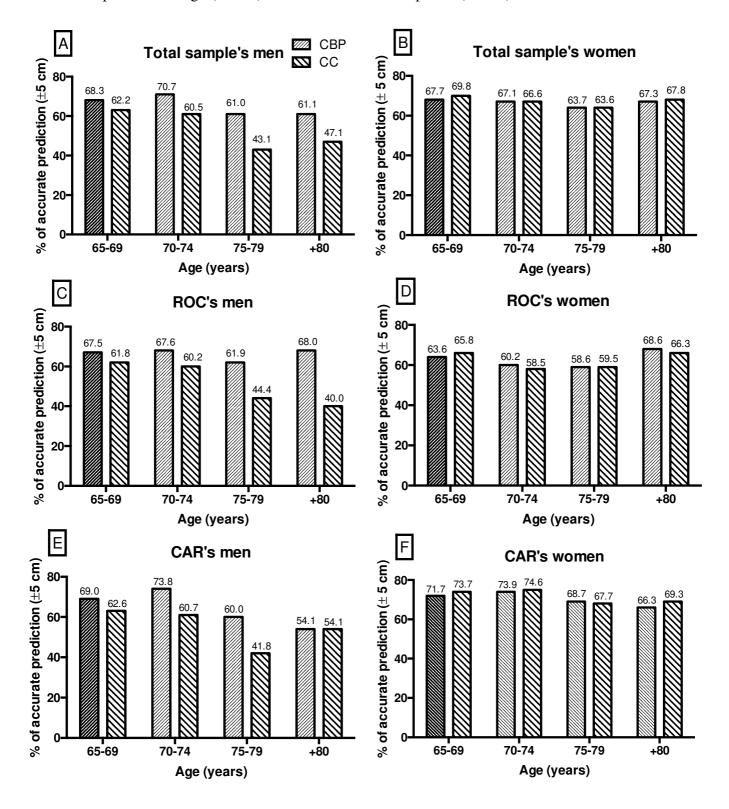


Figure 3: Bland and Altman graphics between the measured height and the height predicted using the two Chumlea's formulas and the created formula in the validation subsample (n=877).

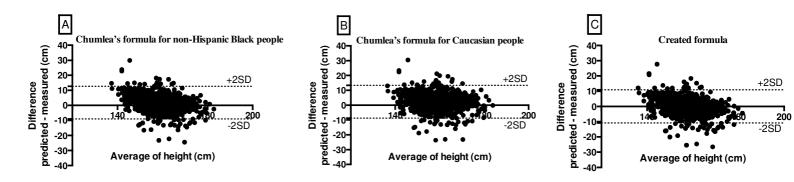


Table 1: Characteristics of the total sample (n=1754), derivation subsample (n=877) and validation subsample (n=877)

	Total sample	Derivation subsample	Validation subsample	р
	(n = 1,754)	(n = 877)	(n = 877)	Derivation subsample
	median (IQR) or n (%)	median (IQR) or n (%)	median (IQR) or n (%)	vs. validation subsample
Women	1079 (61.5)	555 (63.3)	524 (59.7)	0.13
Age (years)	72.0 (67.0 - 77.0)	71.0 (78.0 - 77.0)	72.0 (67.0 - 77.0)	0.63
ROC	880 (50.2)	441 (50.3)	439 (50.1)	0.92
Rural area	899 (51.3)	463 (52.8)	436 (49.7)	0.20
Weight (kg)	49.0 (43.0 - 59.0)	49.0 (43.0 - 59.0)	49.0 (43.0 - 58.8)	0.89
Height (cm)	157.0 (150.5 - 164.0)	157.0 (150.2 - 163.8)	157.0 (151.0 - 164.0)	0.91
KHt (cm)	50.0 (48.0 - 52.0)	50.0 (47.5 - 52.0)	50.0 (48.0 - 52.0)	0.78
BMI (kg/m ²)	20.1 (17.8 - 23.1)	20.2 (17.7 - 23.2)	20.90 (17.8 - 23.0)	0.81

BMI: body mass index; IQR: interquartile range; KHt: knee height; ROC: Republic of Congo.

p (chi square test or Mann-Whitney test): derivation vs. validation subsamples.

Table 2: Prediction of height (PHt) using the two Chumlea's formulas compared to measured height (MHt) in the total sample (n = 1754), in the

Republic of Congo (ROC, n=880) and in the Central African Republic (CAR, n=874).

	Heig	ght	Bia	as	9	5% limi	t of agreement		Prediction	
Total sample	Mean	CD	P-M	01				Accurate	Under 5 cm	Over 5 cm
(n=1754)	(cm)	SD	(cm)	%	From	to	% between limit	(%)	(%)	(%)
- <mark>MHt</mark>	157.4	9.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- CBP	159.2	7.4	1.8	1.1	-8.8	12.4	94.2	66.8	9.1	24.1
- CC	159.7	8.3	2.3	1.4	-8.5	13.1	94.4	63.2	7.8	29.0
ROC (n=880)										
- <mark>MHt</mark>	155.9	7.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- CBP	158.5	7.8	2.6	1.6	-8.0	13.2	94.5	64.2	6.7	29.1
- CC	158.9	8.3	3.0	1.9	-7.9	14.0	95.2	59.8	6.1	39.1

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CAR (n=874)

- MHt 159.0 9.1 -

- CBP	160.0	7.4	1.0	0.6	-9.4	11.4	94.6	69.4	11.4	19.2
- CC	160.5	8.3	1.5	0.9	-9.0	12.1	94.7	66.6	9.5	23.9

CBP: Chumlea's formula for non-hispanic Black people; CC: Chumlea's formula for Caucasian people; P-M: PHt minus MHt; SD: standard

deviation.

Table 3: Prediction of height (PHt) using the two Chumlea's formulas and the created formula compared to measured height (MHt) in the

validation subsample (n=877).

-	Heig	ht	Bia	ıs	95% lä	imit of a	agreement			Prediction	
All (n=877)	Mean (cm)	SD	P-M (cm)	%	From	to	% between limit	ICC (95%CI)	Accurate (%)	Under 5cm (%)	Over 5cm (%)
- <mark>MHt</mark>	157.5	9.3	_	-	-	-	-		-	-	-
- CBP	159.3	7.4	1.8	1.2	-9.1	12.7	94.4	0.76 (0.70 - 0.81)	65.3	8.8	25.9
- CC	159.8	8.3	2.3	1.4	-8.7	13.4	94.6	0.77 (0.67 – 0.83)	61.8	7.8	30.4
- Created formula	157.5	7.5	0.0	0.0	-10.8	10.9	94.1	0.78 (0.76 - 0.81)	71.3*	14.0*	14.7*

*Comparison of percentage of prediction with CBP vs. created formula, p < 0.05

CBP: Chumlea's formula for non-Hispanic Black people; CC: Chumlea's formula for Caucasian; CI: confidence interval; ICC: intraclass correlation coefficient; P-M: PHt minus MHt; SD: standard deviation.

Table 4: Nutritional status using body mass index (BMI) according to the measured or predicted height in the total sample (n=1748), Republic of

Congo (n=878) and in Central African Republic (n=870).

	Total sample								
	measured	CBP	CC	Created formula					
BMI (kg/m ²) median (IQR)	20.1 (17.8 - 23.1)	19.5 (17.3 - 22.4)*	19.4 (17.2 - 22.3)*	19.9 (17.7 - 23.0)					
Undernutrition n (%)	<mark>600 (34.3)</mark>	<mark>676 (38.7)*</mark>	<mark>701 (40.1)*</mark>	<mark>599 (34.3)</mark>					
Normal status n (%)	<mark>868 (49.7)</mark>	<mark>811 (46.4)</mark>	<mark>797 (45.6)</mark>	<mark>857 (49.0)</mark>					
Overweight n (%)	<mark>199 (11.4)</mark>	<mark>183 (12.4)</mark>	174 (10.0)	204 (11.7)					
Obesity n (%)	<mark>81 (4.6)</mark>	78 (4.5)	<mark>76 (4.3)</mark>	<mark>88 (5.0)</mark>					
	Republic of Congo								
	measured	СВР	CC	Created formula					
BMI (kg/m ²) median (IQR)	20.4 (18.0 - 23.6)	19.8 (17.3 - 22.9)*	19.8 (17.3 - 22.9)*	20.2 (17.8 - 23.5)					
Undernutrition n (%)	265 (30.2)	320 (36.5)*	328 (37.4)*	281 (32.0)					

Normal status n (%)	444 (50.6)	410 (46.7)	408 (46.5)	432 (49.2)
Overweight n (%)	116 (13.2)	102 (11.6)	97 (11.0)	110 (12.5)
Obesity n (%)	53 (6.0)	46 (5.2)	45 (5.1)	55 (6.3)
		Central Afri	can Republic	
BMI (kg/m ²) median (IQR)	19.7 (17.5 - 22.2)	19.2 (17.3 - 22.1)	19.1 (17.1 - 22.0)*	19.7 (17.6 - 22.5)
Undernutrition n (%)	335 (38.5)	356 (40.9)	373 (42.9)	318 (36.6)
Normal status n (%)	424 (48.7)	401 (46.1)	389 (44.7)	425 (48.8)
Overweight n (%)	83 (9.6)	81 (9.3)	77 (8.8)	94 (10.8)
Obesity n (%)	28 (3.2)	32 (3.7)	31 (3.6)	33 (3.8)

* Comparison between measured height and predictive formulas, p < 0.05

CBP: Chumlea's formulas for non-Hispanic Black people; CC: Chumlea's formulas for Caucasian people; IQR: interquartile range.