Reviewer's report

Title: Association of Health Behaviour with Heart Rate Variability: A Population-Based Study

Version: 1 Date: 7 October 2010

Reviewer: Mahir Karakas

Reviewer's report:

Kluttig et al. present a well-written and solid manuscript. The study aim is timely, the data are of interest. Although the paper is not the first one to address the question of how reduced heart rate variability and behavioural risk factors compare in the definition of cardiovascular disease, data from different populations are needed. One strength of the study is the well-defined, large population examined. Shortcomings comprise insufficient statistical methods, and the cross-sectional design (as stated in the manuscript).

Specific comments:

- Please adjust in your analyses for age, sex, use of cv-medication (at least for betablockers), prevalent disease (MI/ stroke/ CVD/ hypertension/ DM).
- Please move Supplemental table 1 to the manuscript, Figure 1 can be deleted, Figures 2 and 3 should be designed less confusing (maybe in table-format).

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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