Reviewer’s report

Title: Diagnostic strategies for C-reactive protein

Authors:

Harriette Riese (h.riese@psy.vu.nl)
Tanja GM Vrijkotte (tgm.vrijkotte@psy.vu.nl)
Piet Meijer (p.meijer@pg.tno.nl)
Cees Kluft (kluft@euronet.nl)
Eco JC de Geus (eco@psy.vu.nl)

Version: 1 Date: 6 Sep 2001

Reviewer: Dr D McMillan

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Advice on publication: Accept after revision, which I do not need to see

My main concern about this paper is the use of regression analysis to assess individual C-reactive protein concentrations. The authors conclude that age, BMI, smoking behaviour and alcohol consumption poorly predict C-reactive protein concentrations. They then proceed to add in other parameters, the majority of which are also sensitive to changes in the systemic inflammatory response, to predict C-reactive protein concentrations. Although, this is statistically possible it does not make much scientific sense.

The authors should explain in more detail why their data do not support the use of tertiles.

Competing interests:

None declared.