Reviewer's report

Title: Are Coronary Event Rates Declining Slower in Women Than in Men? - Evidence From Two Population-Based Myocardial Infarction Registers in Finland

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Reviewer: Christa Meisinger

Reviewer's report:

General
Based on data of two large population-based MI-registers, Lehto and colleagues investigated whether the incidence, attack rate and case-fatality of myocardial infarction events have declined less in Finnish women than in men. Two time periods, 1994-1996 and 2000-2002 were compared. The paper is clearly written.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

The authors describe, that studies have shown that the incidence of MI has decreased especially in younger men and increased in older women. They suggest that younger women are considered to be protected from CHD, especially during the fertile age. Thus, it is unclear why the authors chose to conduct the analysis on the entire study population only. I would suggest, to conduct an age-stratified analysis too – for example an analysis comparing the event rates (incidence, attack rate, case fatality) among men and women above and below the age of 50 could be performed.

Abstract: The numbers of total events recorded in men and women in the two registers differ from the numbers given in the Results section. Please clarify.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

The authors state that persons ≥ 35 years were included. It would be good to give an age-range and a gender-specific age-distribution of the included subjects.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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