Reviewer's report

Title: Swedish snuff and incidence of cardiovascular disease. A population-based cohort study

Version: 2 Date: 8 November 2008

Reviewer: Ram Singh

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The Editor

SWEDISH SNUF AND INCIDENCE OF CVD by Janzon et al

The relation of tobacco consumption with CVD is well established. However, relation of snuff with CVD has controversy. There is a need to conduct well designed studies to prove that snuff is not related to CVD. This study does not appear to be strong because of following problems:

1. Response rate was 40%, out of 70,000 and 28,449; only 17,203 and 11,246 participated in the study. It is possible that those who did not participate (60%) had strong correlation of snuff with CVD. What were the causes of non-responders?

2. The criteria of snuff use appears to be much more strong which may ignore those subjects who are using lesser dose of snuff but may be more sensitive to have snuff toxicity and to develop CVD.

Can you try to assess snuff use in a month? There may be many subjects which may be having snuff only a few packets in a month. By your criteria they are excluded from this analysis.

3. Since this study is likely to enhance the use of snuff in the population by showing its harmlessness, strict criteria should be used for analysis and conclusions.

I do not advise rejection of papers but always for improvement

4. Did you look for tobacco chewing as RF of CVD?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interest