Reviewer's report

Title: Attributable fractions in large scale surveys considering multiple risk factors

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Reviewer: Alain Le Tertre

Reviewer's report:

The authors discuss several methods to compute AF and the utility to report it. The paper is well written and is convincing but the authors miss two major points.

As pointed in the discussion, use of continuous covariate is not considered. The reason given lies on communication problem. This is a too simplist argument. One can calculate an AF for a continuous covariate either for the mean of the categories chosen or as usually presented for an inter-quartile range. The disadvantages of categorising a covariate are not balanced by this wrong statement.

The second relies on the assumption that the risk estimated from a sample is the right ones. This point is partly discussed in the last paragraph of the discussion. If one agree on the meaning of this paragraph, the authors should keep in mind that the estimate from a study is subject to stochastic variation. An overall estimate combining information from several studies will have better property. The authors should discuss the balance to use a more robust estimate, aggregated from several studies, but for which the methodology suggested in the paper can not be applied with an estimate from one sample, for which suggested method is applicable.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests