Reviewer’s report

Title: Congenital heart disease in men - birth characteristics and reproduction. A national cohort study.

Version: 1 Date: 21 August 2013

Reviewer: Morten Olsen

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this interesting paper. Please see my comments below.

- Major Compulsory Revisions

1) Validity (positive predictive value) of data on CHD overall and in particular specific CHD types needs to be addressed in methods and discussion sections. Furthermore, it is not clear to me how specific defect types were assigned to patients with multiple defects.

2) How was single ventricle diagnoses defined in the ICD-8 period? Are there specific ICD-8 codes for this type of CHD?

3) The defect specific data in Table 4 are very difficult to interpret as they do not consider time at risk. I would consider omitting this table, and focus on the overall analyses based on Cox regression. Time at risk is particularly important to consider in a population with high mortality, as the CHD population.

- Minor Essential Revisions

1) Abstract: The methods section of the abstract needs to address the data sources and statistics used in more detail.

2) Abstract: Results section of abstract should display the actual main results in numbers and not described by words.

3) Table 4 and 5: It seems from table 5 that more men with complex chd had children than the 54 described in table 4.

4) Table 4 does not contain incidence data, as stated in results.

5) Numbers of CHD patients differ between abstract(n=2310) and main text (n=2689).

- Discretionary Revisions

1) Methods: Would consider revising the text and combine the description of the study population and variables with the description of the various registries used to identify them.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests: 

I declare that I have no competing interests