Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Determinants of participation in colonoscopic screening by siblings of colorectal cancer patients in France

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 14 February 2010

**Reviewer:** Finlay Macrae

**Reviewer’s report:**

Please justify the P<0.25 criteria for selection of univariate variables for inclusion in the multivariate analysis.

Please justify the following in the methodology: In calculating a score, when at least half the items were answered, the average of these answers was attributed to the answered items. Were the unanswered questions sufficiently similar in content and wording to allow this extrapolation?

Overall participation is quoted at 67% and only passing reference is made to the very likely overestimate due to the non-inclusion on the denominator of all those who did not respond to the invitation to participate. I think they should provide a low estimate of participation by including all those relatives (if they know the number) of either index cases who agreed to participate, or better still, all relatives of all index cases approached. Perhaps they could use an average sibship size from the participating cohort to allow a calculation of the total number of siblings of all the index cases approached.

The figures were not passed on to me: just the captions.

**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 I have no competing interests