Reviewer's report

Title: Risk factors for nasal malignancies in German men - The South-German Nasal Cancer Study

Version: 2 Date: 3 September 2012

Reviewer: Steve Wing

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On pages 17-18 the authors offer two arguments for why differential selection between cases and controls with respect to educational attainment should not bias risk estimates (I interpreted risk estimates to mean ORs quantifying the associations between exposures and nasal cancer). These arguments were not clear to me so I suggest clarifying them.

In Argument 1, how would the response rate in cases affect their average educational attainment? Do the authors have a reason to believe that response rates differed by education?

Argument 2 is confusing. Although both arguments are presented as responses to concerns about confounding or selection, Table 9, presented as part of Argument 2, addresses the question of effect measure modification.

minor comments:

Abstract: “stuff” should be “snuff”

Methods p 6: should “environmental smoke” be environmental tobacco smoke?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.