Reviewer's report

Title: Public awareness of cancer risk factors and its determinants in Morocco: A population-based cross-sectional study

Version: 2 Date: 7 June 2013

Reviewer: Jo Waller

Reviewer's report:

1) In the Abstract, please give the maximum knowledge score (i.e. 14) so that the reader can interpret the mean knowledge score.

2) The authors refer to 'attitude' in the final line of the Abstract - should this really be 'knowledge'?

3) The authors say there are 14 factors in their scale - I counted 15 (as passive and active smoking are 2 separate factors). Please clarify.

4) The risk factors and protective factors chosen were not obvious to me. I would have included sun exposure and viral infection as clear risk factors, and screening as a protective behaviour. I'm not aware of strong evidence on food colouring olive oil, green tea or coffee. Please cite the papers used to choose the factors included.

5) Providing information on the common cancers in Morocco (in the Introduction) might help to provide context for the choice of exposures included in the scale.

6) Although significant between-group differences are found, they are very small. Could you author comment on the clinical / public health impact of a difference of <1 on the scale?

7) In the Discussion the authors suggest that the association between smoking and knowledge could be explained by lower levels of education in smokers. But in the multivariate models, the effect of smoking persists after controlling for education. Might there be an alternative explanation?

8) The labels used for housing category in Table 3 are different from the other tables - please make them consistent.

9) The article needs a lot of minor editing to improve the English (both in terms of grammar and spelling) - please make sure it is checked by a native speaker.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

I declare that I have no competing interests