Reviewer's report

Title: Etiological study of esophageal squamous cell carcinoma in an endemic region: a population-based case control study in Huaian, China

Version: 2 Date: 12 July 2006
Reviewer: Eduardo De Stefani

Reviewer's report:

General

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
This is a modest-sized case-control study conducted in an endemic area of China. The study is restricted to squamous cell carcinoma of the esophagus and includes only incident cases.
I have some questions for the authors:
1-The food frequency questionnaire was validated?
2-The FFQ was tested for reproducibility?
3-The reader (and the reviewer) would like to know the results of temperature of tea.
4-The tea was green or black?
5-What test the authors employed to determine the introvert personality?
6-Coul be also of interest to know the percentage of extrovert personality, psychotic personality, depressive personality, authoritative personality, etc.
7-Please clarify why passive smoking was more risky than active smoking. I suggest to examine to role of active smoking regarding intensity, years smoked, cessation, type of tobacco, type of cigarette.
8-What means esophageal lesion?
9-The readers could be interested about the effect of other food group or items like dairy foods, red meat, fried meat, etc.

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests