Reviewer’s report

Title: Decreasing sperm quality: a global problem?

Version: 1 Date: 2 November 2009

Reviewer: Dora Loria

Reviewer’s report:

Discretionary revision:
I suggest to discuss briefly and include some other references about the possible effect of tobacco on sperm quality

Minor essential revisions
1) in Background:
   a) Control de order number of references 2 and 3;
   b) in sentence: “Swan excluded from Carlsens´ meta-analysis….” an (d) and (e) symbols are not clear to where correspond
   c) the authors included Fig 1 (is the one from Swan (2000). With permission?), the result of a simple linear model. I suggest the authors to mention the results of Swan et al. applying non linear model
2) in Selection bias (page 7): a “ is missing in “ specimens”
3) in Perspectives. (page 11): the description of which were the “ possible confounders” evaluated by Jorgensen (29) would be more interesting for the reader.

The argument is not a new one but although it have been discussed in previous papers, there steel needs more light inside. The authors well conclude in their summary that new population-based studies are needed

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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