Reviewer’s report

Title: The influence of parental smoking and family type on saliva cotinine in UK ethnic minority children: a cross sectional study.

Version: 2 Date: 21 January 2010

Reviewer: Mónica Perez-Rios

Reviewer’s report:

The authors of the submitted manuscript have addressed some of my critiques, but they need to point some aspects.

Tables number 2 and, specially, number 3 are difficult to understand. Authors explain that the other reviewers did not find difficulties in these tables although this is not true; reviewer 4 "suggest and kindly recommend to ELIMINATE table 3". Please, reformulate the presentation.

Nicotine metabolism is influenced by genetic factors, diet, age, sex, kidney disease, medications, etc. Please, review the role of the genetic in the cotinine metabolism, because substantial racial/ethnic differences are observed in nicotine metabolism. Discussion must be improved.

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'