Reviewer’s report

Title: Determinants of smoking initiation among women in five European countries: a cross-sectional survey

Version: 1 Date: 29 October 2009

Reviewer: Irene Tramacere

Reviewer’s report:

In this study, the authors investigated the role of several characteristics and beliefs about smoking on smoking initiation among European women. This is a well-described descriptive epidemiologic study, based on a large number of participants. The manuscript is well-written and conclusions are interesting. However, below there are some comments that may help to further improve the manuscript.

Major points:
1. The use of prevalence rate ratio instead of odds ratio would be more suitable. Alternatively, the odds ratio can be used as an association estimate, but it should not be interpreted as a relative risk because of the high prevalence of the outcome. Thus, please rephrase the second paragraph of the Results section.
2. Please double check the CI reported in the last paragraph of the Results section referred to the age at initiation among Swedish women (-1.42 to -0.61), because it differs from that reported in Table 6 (-1.30, -0.14).

Minor points:
1. Please consider to delete in the title of Table 2 the sentence “n’s shown without weighting”. Moreover, please consider to rephrase this sentence (“n’s shown without weighting”) in the title of the other Tables, in order to clarify this concept.
2. Please be consistent throughout the manuscript with the use of thousand separators.

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