Reviewer’s report

Title: A registry-based follow-up study, comparing the incidence of cardiovascular disease in native Danes and immigrants born in Turkey, Pakistan and the former Yugoslavia: Do social inequalities play a role?

Version: 1 Date: 29 April 2011

Reviewer: Maira Bes-Rastrollo

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting paper dealing with the relationship between country of birth and incidence of cardiovascular disease and acute myocardial infarction in Denmark.

Strong points of the article are the current relevance of this topic, the scarcity of previous analyses, and the used of a registry-based design.

However, several issues deserve further attention and need to be addressed before being accepted for publication:

Major compulsory revisions:

Based on the used data, from 1837707 individuals above 20 years of age 26341 were immigrants born in Turkey, Pakistan and former Yugoslavia; therefore they only represented the 1.43% of the studied population. By contrast, according to the information presented in the Background section of the article, in 2010 the immigrants and their descendants constituted about 10% of the total population and two thirds originated from non-Western country. From my point of view this is a limitation that needs to be addressed in the discussion section of the manuscript as the fact that the data used is not representative of the Danish population.

Please specify how many individuals were excluded with a previous history of CVD or AMI. Which was the final sample size?

In Table 1 you should also excluded from the other variables those individuals with previous history of CVD or AMI.

In Tables 2, 3, and 4 you should included information about how many person-years were included and incident cases according to each category.

How did you test the collinearity in the models including all the SES variables?

In Table 4, where you present the stratified analyses according to age group, please include the p for interaction and specify (also in the methods) which SES variable was used to adjust for.

How do you explain that former Yugoslavians presented a lower incidence of CVD? You should include this point in the discussion section.
Minor compulsory revisions:
In the Outcome data paragraph of the Methods section in line 6, please delete the first “were”.
Please, explain better the home ownership variable.
Please, rephrase the last but one sentence of the Statistical analyses paragraph of the Methods section.
In page 9, delete the first “lack of”.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

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