Reviewer's report

Title: Long working hours and metabolic syndrome among Japanese men: a cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 21 February 2012

Reviewer: Bernt Karlsson

Reviewer's report:

Minor revision:
Methods: The number of individuals with unavailability to electronic data of health checkup are rather high. Is there a possible social bias due to that, beyond what is described on page 10?

Results: Why is the dichotomized level of 40 years chosen? Has other levels been tested?

Discussion and conclusions:
In general are the findings very well discussed in reference with the existing scientific literature.

About intervention strategies discussed on page 16. Japan is known for "existing long working hours" in the labour market. Simultaneously, the law is restrictive. How is it possible to combine that fact with the actual demands of the Labor Standards Law (40h/w)?

In other words, it would be of interest from an European point of view to better understand the proposal about not to use a high risk strategy intervention, than population strategy intervention.

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 have no competing interests, in relation to what is the written text above.