Reviewer's report

Title: Do positive or negative experiences of social support relate to current and future health? Results from the Doetinchem Cohort Study

Version: 1 Date: 14 October 2011

Reviewer: Sylvia Kwok

Reviewer's report:

Comments: Strength
1. The question posed by the authors is adequately defined in the “measurements” section.
2. The methods are appropriate and well described, considering possible errors and bias in subjective perception.
3. The data are sound and reflect an interesting phenomenon about the associations of positive and negative experiences of social support with current and future lifestyle factors, biological risk factors, self-perceived health and mental health over a 10-year period.
4. The manuscript can adhere to the general standard for reporting and data deposition.
5. The title and abstract can accurately convey what has been found.
6. The writing is acceptable.

Minor essential revisions:
7. Although there are a number of relevant discussions on the limitations of the work, it is better to categorize the strength and limitations in the “discussion” section clearly.
8. The authors fail to acknowledge previous work done by others upon which they are building adequately, hence more discussion on the previous studies done by others, the research gap and the reasons for the present study is necessary.
9. There needs to be some explanations on the findings e.g. the reasons why low levels of positive experiences of social support were associated with low current intake of fruit and vegetable, but not with future intake. There should also be some discussions whether the findings correspond with previous literature and why they corroborate or not. A brief discussion on the implications of the results is preferred.

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