Reviewer’s report

Title: Exposure to environmental tobacco smoke based on urinary cotinine levels among Israeli nonsmoking adults: a cross-sectional study of the first Israeli biomonitoring study

Version: 1 Date: 25 October 2013

Reviewer: Alexander Stiby

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Methods are not clear. Limit of detection and limit of quantification need to have clear definitions. Smoker/non smoker is addressed purely on self-report but cotinine levels should also be used, using the active smoking cut-off.

2. The use of the phrase ‘statistical significance’ should not be used as using the cut-off of p<0.05 is arbitrary.

3. The methods discuss showing OR’s but these are not presented in the results.

4. Results are discussed in the results section for the association between fruit and vegetable consumption on adjusted cotinine levels among non smokers. These results are not presented in any of the tables.

5. Data is discussed in discussion section which is not presented in the article.

6. The sample size is very small to be making conclusions, this would be to be extensively addressed in the discussion.

7. Discussion needs to address other sources of cotinine.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. A more complete breakdown of the numbers from the Israeli Biomonitoring Study are required. Also, a description of the potential sample size, why was it only 300 individuals when the study looks in to 20 cities?

2. Bracket missing when describing education in the methods.

3. Units need to be included for age in the results.

4. Conclusion is miss-spelt.

5. Tables need to be able to stand alone, therefore need a description/legend.

6. Quality of figure needs to be increased, also the description need to be extended to be able to stand alone.

Discretionary Revisions
1. Very recent study, 'Stiby et al. (2013)' would be useful in the background literature.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

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

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare I have no competing interests