Reviewer's report

Title: Effectiveness of a partial smoking ban in a pro-smoking environment: a cross-sectional study in Lisbon taxis

Version: 2 Date: 28 September 2012

Reviewer: Maria Jose Lopez

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MAJOR REVISIONS

This is an interesting and original study assessing the compliance and enforcement of the Portuguese law in taxis.

The study is of interest and the methodology used could be considered suitable for the objective of the study. However, the presentation of the results is very poor. Most results showed in the text (actually, those who answer the main objectives of the study) are not shown in the tables. Therefore, the main issue to be modified would be the presentation of the results.

Some suggestions regarding the presentation of the results:

- Delete Table 2, while adding smoking habit and age in Table 1 (General characteristics of the sample).

- Create two or three more tables with the data of support, compliance and enforcement stratified by the main variables recorded (some sociodemographic characteristics, smoking habit, working at night...)

- Final table with the main OR assessed since, according to the last sentence of the Introduction, one of the objectives of the study was “to identify factors associated with ban support and compliance”.

Other comments:

- The title seems to me a bit confusing, I would suggest something clearer, like: Compliance and enforcement of the partial smoking ban in taxis of Lisboa: a cross-sectional study.

- The period of study is very wide (2 years), so it is possible that the attitudes change over time. Have the authors explored if there is any difference in the main variables along time? It should be convenient, at least, to include some comment about the potential variability of the results along time in the Discussion.

- In the paragraph regarding Strengths and Limitations, I would suggest to change the first sentence by “Few studies have addressed enforcement and compliance with smoking laws IN TAXIS”
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 declare that I have no competing interests