Reviewer's report

**Title:** An observational study to assess changes in social inequality in smoking-attributable upper aero digestive tract cancer mortality among Canadian males between 1986 and 2001

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 20 February 2013

**Reviewer:** Silvano Gallus

**Reviewer's report:**

The manuscript highly improved after revision. Before acceptance, authors should address the following minor points.

1) I strongly suggest to delete Figure 2, since it falls outside the main topic of the present study, and, in its present form, it is not highly informative. Moreover, data provided are already accessible elsewhere. Figure 2 may be easily substituted by the following sentence in the main text: “Male smoking prevalence in Canada steadily declined over the last 5 decades (from 61% in 196X to 20% in 2010) [REF]”.

2) Please check the consistency between data provided in Table 1 and Figure 1. At least one rate estimate (Overall, 1991 Total is 28.4 in Table 1 and 28.5 in Figure 1) is still inconsistent.

3) Please check Reference 21 (Prez-Ros should be Perez-Rios)

**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