Reviewer's report

Title: Patterns of active and passive smoking, and associated factors in the southeast Anatolian project (SEAP) region, in Turkey

Version: 2 Date: 30 September 2005

Reviewer: Silvano Gallus

Reviewer's report:

General
The first revision highly improved the manuscript. Unfortunately, the manuscript is not acceptable in the present form because of a few major points.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
1) The manuscript MUST be proof-read by a native English speaker, because of several English mistakes and typos.
2) Factors considered in the multivariate analyses (covariates) should be listed in the METHODS section, AND in a footnote in table 3.
3) In my first revision, one of the major points was on the future anti-smoking campaigns. I wrote: "I am a little bit sceptical about the fact that “… in SEAP region anti-smoking campaigns should target men”. In fact, according to the model by Lopez et al. (Tobacco Control 1994; 3: 242-247) it has been shown that South-eastern European regions should be in the III stage of the smoking epidemic (http://www.who.int/tobacco/global_data/country_profiles/Introduction.pdf). According to this model, we expect in the next few decades an increase of smoking prevalence in women and a decrease in men. In this case, anti-smoking campaigns should target primarily women.” Authors answered that they “disagree with the reviewer on the view of aiming women as the primary target for smoking cessation campaigns” It is not what I was trying to suggest to authors.
I obviously agree with authors saying that smoking cessation campaigns should target men, but NOT anti-smoking campaigns in general (among anti-smoking campaigns there is even anti-smoking initiation campaign, and following my line of reasoning suggested by the model by Lopez et al, anti-smoking initiation campaigns should target women and the young).
I therefore suggest authors to substitute “anti-smoking campaigns” with “smoking cessation campaigns” in the 6th paragraph of Discussion.
4) Check these two sentences of the INTRODUCTION: “Turkey has a population of 70 millions and 17 millions are smokers. The percentage of smokers is 44% 15 and older”:
If they are both correct, it means that 17 millions divided by 0.44 (=38.6 millions) are the number of people in Turkey aged 15 years or older. This means that in Turkey there are more than 31 million people aged less than 15 years… is it possible?
Besides the fact that the second sentence should be written as “The percentage of smokers is 44% among adults aged 15 years or older.”
5) INTRODUCTION: “Cancer and cardiovascular diseases take the second and third place (it was misspelled as “palace” in your manuscript) among mortality reasons in our country”. Are you sure about your death rate ranking and the position? I wonder which is the first cause of death in Turkey.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests