Reviewer's report

Title: Early menopause: Association with tobacco smoking, coffee consumption and other lifestyle factors -
a cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 16 March 2007

Reviewer: Riitta Luoto

Reviewer's report:

General
This is a well-written article of a not new association, but of great public health importance.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be
reached)
Conclusion lacks comment of total exposure of smoking and the role of education. It is left unclear how are
these correlated: are highest educated the least exposed to smoking? I guess this is true, but it would be
good to add this interrelationship to results section.
2123 women were included to the study, but how large proportion of them had early menopause during age
40-44 years? From Table 1 it seems that 2119 out of all respondents (99%) had early menopause by marital
status, which is quite unprobable. Please check the table headline and/or analyses.

In discussion the use of HRT is suggested to overestimate the age of menopause. If HRT is started before
menopause, there is no clear menopausal age estimated if HRT is not cessated. Thus it could be both
under- and overestimation- confounding anyhow.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author
can be trusted to correct)
Page 9 states that ' more than four cups of coffee a week showed an association..." This may be rather ‘a
day’?
Please delete horizontal lines from the tables.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major
compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

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