Reviewer's report

Title: Nut Consumption and Risk of Atrial Fibrillation in the Physicians' Health Study

Version: 2 Date: 27 February 2012

Reviewer: Maira Bes-Rastrollo

Reviewer's report:

The authors have addressed all of my comments. However, I have to point out several issues that deserve further attention and need to be addressed before being accepted:

MAJOR COMPULSARY REVISION:
1) I do not understand why the authors in the new version of the multivariable models they adjusted also for nut consumption, their main exposure of interest. Please, correct it.

MINOR REVISIONS:
2) The authors have not included in another color the information about the flowchart of participants. Consequently, it seems that this information was not missing in the previous version (just a comment).
3) In the new version of the manuscript, in the results section, I would include in the last paragraph: Results of sensitivity analysis "excluding those who developed any chronic disease such as any cancer, DM, or CVD" did not alter the results either...
4) The authors should include the crude way to assess physical activity as a potential limitation for residual confounding in the Discussion section.
5) Regarding the answer to the question number 8, I do not understand why the authors mentioned that the risk it appears that might even be statistically "increased" when the results of multivariable analysis showed the estimation for the hazard ration below the null value.
6) Please include in the Discussion section of the new version of the manuscript that you do not have available information on family history of hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, or diabetes, as a potential limitation of the study.
7) In Table 1, authors should mention, how they define “Physical activity”.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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