Reviewer's report

**Title:** Dairy products and calcium intake during pregnancy and dental caries in children

**Version:** 3 **Date:** 1 May 2012

**Reviewer:** Ingegerd Johansson

**Reviewer's report:**

The authors might have misunderstood my comment on the generalizability of the results. I meant the finding is plausible in low intake populations (such as Japan) but needs to be confirmed in high intake populations. This comment is in line with beneficial effects from vitamin or mineral supplementation in low intake populations, but not others.

The authors’ text reads: “The difference in consumption of dairy products between Japanese and Western populations should be taken into account when interpreting our results. A clear protective association of dairy products and calcium with dental caries may exist in populations with high intake of dairy products and calcium. The results obtained in the present study, therefore, are not likely to be generalized worldwide.”

I suggest: “The difference in consumption of dairy products between Japanese and Western populations should be taken into account when interpreting our results. A clear protective association of dairy products and calcium with dental caries may exist in populations with marginal intake of dairy products and calcium, such as in Japan. The results obtained in the present study, therefore, are not likely to be generalized worldwide.”

Otherwise the authors have met all comments satisfactory.

**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.