Reviewer's report

**Title:** Systematic review and meta-analysis: influence of smoking cessation on incidence of pneumonia in HIV

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 20 July 2012

**Reviewer:** Lawrence Mbuagbaw

**Reviewer's report:**

The statistical techniques and analyses seem to be appropriate. The reporting can be improved. See below:

**Major compulsory revisions:**

1. Consider reporting the p values for the odds ratios and hazard ratios alongside the confidence intervals, all in the same brackets and using square brackets if necessary e.g. (risk ratio [RR] 1.06, 95% CI 0.89, 1.29; p= 0.542).
2. Publication bias is not described completely. The mentioned funnel plot can be added to the paper.
3. Measures of heterogeneity are not described. What do you make of the values for I2 reported? Are they high, moderate or low?
4. Figure 2 should not be the main or only Forest plot shown. It is more useful to present one for each major comparison described in the abstract. Also there is no statistical heterogeneity in this plot, so there is no reason to present the data as if there were. I2=0% in the subtotals and in the total.

**Minor essential revisions:**

1. The odds ratios reported are quite close to one. It would be interesting to perform more extensive sensitivity analyses. Apart from study quality and design you can also look at the results based on the definition of smoking (as an example).
2. Study size might be interesting to investigate. Do the smaller studies consistently provide contrary findings?
3. The fourth column in table 1 is not well presented and it is difficult to distinguish between means and medians and SDs.

**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.