Reviewer’s report

Title: Mortality attributable to tobacco: Review of different methods

Version: 1 Date: 21 October 2013

Reviewer: Katrien Vanthomme

Reviewer’s report:

1. Major Compulsory Revisions

# Overall: check language
# Tables:
o check the lay-out
o needs to be more uniform
o table instead of “tableau”
o years instead of “anos”
o table 3: comments are not structured. May be in a structured way add information about the country, period, inclusion criteria,…
# Check references: sometimes [number] and sometimes [name year]
# Also check reference list: not uniform
# Material and methods:
o No other criteria are used than those that are listed (period: 1998-2005, epidemiological method and English language)? No geographical limitations (LMIC)? Age range? Periods of the data itself (meaning not the data of the publication)
o Clarify “an epidemiological method”
o What happened to the 18 papers that were apparently excluded: 30 -> 12? Exclusion based on what?
# Results and discussion:
o Consistent use of “Smoking impact ratio method” instead of “Peto and colleagues’ method”
o ICD-9 and ICD-10 are listed in table 2 instead of table 1
o Last sentence p7: 80+ instead of 80?
o Results of Ezzati and Lopez not included in table?
# Conclusion: The second sentence: “Because many low- and middle-income countries are still in early stages of the tobacco epidemic, the number of smoking-related deaths in these nations was probably… ?”

2. Minor Essential Revisions
# Abstract: Twelve instead of 12 at the beginning and full stop at the end of the second sentence in the “Materials and methods” section.

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

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

**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 interest