Reviewer’s report

Title: Tobacco smoking and semen quality in infertile males: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Version: 0 Date: 09 Jul 2018

Reviewer: Birute Zilaitiene

Reviewer’s report:

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Novelty section. The statements as "health of sperms in infertile males" is not used in reproductive medicine, as there is no any special laboratory parameter assessing "sperm health". The other statement "very interesting topic based on a broad readership" is also not scientifically supported in any way.

Conclusions should be corrected. The statement "Smoking did have a major impact on the low quantity of sperms" does not reflect the relationships evaluated. May be, there are associations between smoking and sperm concentration(or sperm count), smoking men had worse sperm morphology etc.. Nobody assessed sperm concentration and the other parameters before smoking and after some time of smoking to evaluate "impact". Otherwise the conclusions are OK.

The terminology regarding semen alterations in used in the text is inappropriate. Please find citation from the WHO laboratory manual for the examination and processing of human semen, 2010 (page 266)

"The suffi x "spermia" refers to the ejaculate and "zoospermia" to the spermatozoa. Thus, the following terms should not be used: asthenospermia, asthenoteratospermia, cryptospermia, oligoasthenospermia, oligoteratospermia, oligospermia, teratospermia"

There is a clear mistake in the use of terms "aspermia" and "azoospermia". This is a different pathology! In the text aspermia is used, tables and figures contains data on azoospermia. Please correct adequately.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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No

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I am able to assess the statistics

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Needs some language corrections before being published

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