Reviewer’s report

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

**Version:** 0 **Date:** 19 Sep 2018

**Reviewer:** Reviewer 2

**Reviewer’s report:**

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS: To view the full report from the academic peer reviewer, please see the attached file.

REVIEWER COMMENTS FROM REPORT: The authors reviewed the current literature on possible impact of smoking on male fertility and reported a significant higher relative risk for low sperm concentration and abnormal sperm morphology among smokers. This is an interesting topic for a broad audience. The manuscript is well-written although few grammatical and syntax errors need to be corrected.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

Comments:

1- The background section needs more details on the current knowledge about the research question and the rationale for this meta-analysis. Currently, it is mostly repeating the Abstract.

2- The authors need to mention the differences between this analysis and the other recent meta-analysis (PMID: 27113031) in Discussion. It would be important for the readers to understand how the inclusion criteria in the current study is designed differently and if any new research articles on this topic are covered here but not in the 2016 report.

3- Considering the valuable information that is available from animal models on sperm morphology and concentration, it would be important for the authors to discuss possible mechanisms through which smoking may affect these parameters in the sperm. This would help other researchers perform follow up studies and elaborate more on the possible mechanisms.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:

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

No

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

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

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