Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence and Associated Risk Factors of Chronic Bronchitis in First Nations People

Version: 0 Date: 04 Feb 2017

Reviewer: Marc Baltzan

Reviewer’s report:

The paper is part of a larger epidemiological study of first nations communities in Canada. The goal and methods of data analysis are appropriate.

My request for revision regard the finding of gender/body mass index interaction. I am concerned that this is a spurious finding and that the authors need to present more evidence that it is not a chance finding. They may show that the finding is consistent across the communities, or that if data resolution allows, a more fine categorization shows a graded association. Evidence consistent with the association in the literature would be helpful; I know of none.

The overwhelming majority of the participants are admitted smokers. The findings regarding second hand smoke should be presented with caution because in such a small set of communities, i am concerned that the 'controls' who do not smoke, nor are exposed to second hand smoke either have reporting bias or other unmeasured characteristics that distinguish them. I am also concerned that they are significantly exposed to second hand smoke, but report otherwise.

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?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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.

I recommend additional statistical review
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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