Reviewer’s report

Title: The association between e-cigarette use and asthma among never combustible cigarette smokers: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) 2016 & 2017

Version: 0 Date: 30 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Pieter Hiemstra

Reviewer's report:

In this study described in this brief manuscript, the authors used a telephone survey to investigate whether the use of e-cigarettes is associated with asthma. Based on self-reported asthma and e-cigarette use, the authors conclude that use of e-cigarettes in never-combustible cigarette users (sole users) of e-cigarettes is associated with asthma (OR 1.39). Based on the observation that the 95% CI does not span the null value of 1, the conclusion of an increased Odds Ratio is appropriate.

Specific comments:

1. The focus on sole users is a specific strength of the study, whereas the reliance on self-reporting asthma and e-cigarette use is a weakness. This is acknowledged by the authors. For the discussion, it is important to state that these findings should be confirmed in a controlled study, in which asthma and cigarette use are well and objectively characterized (airway hyper-responsiveness, lung function, allergy status, medication use etc).

2. The study is an extension of a similar study in a Hawaian and Korean cohort, which is acknowledged.

3. The OR of 1.39 could be put into perspective for the readers by the authors, by comparing it to OR of known risk factors, including smoking of tobacco cigarettes.

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?**
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I am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable

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