Reviewer's report

Title: Alcohol consumption, drinking patterns, and ischaemic heart disease: a review of meta-analyses

Version:2**Date:**5 August 2014

Reviewer: Lorenza Scotti

Reviewer's report:

The paper "Alcohol consumption, drinking patterns, and ischemic heart disease: a review of meta-analyses" has the aim to summarize the available scientific literature which analyzes the association between alcohol consumption and ischemic heart disease focusing in particular on the reference category and the drinking patterns. Even if the revision is complete and well conducted including the statistical analysis some additional information are needed:

Major Compulsory Revisions

I think that the method section is a bit confused. It looks like the methods section of a quantitative meta-analyses but the main part of the results is a qualitative review of the available literature with additional results provided by pooled estimates obtained by individual studies. To improve the paper, please specify separately what has been done for the qualitative review from what has been done for the qualitative one.

Please specify if the article search was made to detect meta-analyses, original studies or both and how these studies were used which ones for the quantitative and which ones for the qualitative review.

Please separate the part related to the review of the meta-analyses from the meta-analysis you performed and provide more detailed comments of the results.

Minor essential revision

The abstract is focused on the results of the quantitative review while the results section of the paper on the qualitative review, please harmonize the two parts.

Please specify more clearly the objectives. First of all that the one side the aim is to perform a qualitative review of the available literature and on the other side to perform a quantitative review to evaluate the effect of drinking pattern and alcohol dose on IHD incidence in the population studies and IHD mortality in clinical studies compared to general population and to comment the results obtained by both review.

Please specify better the differences between the two search strategy in the text and not only in appendix.

In table S1, are the numbers in brackets the article's reference number? If so please check.

Please explain better what is reported in figure 1. Are the pooled estimates of the retrieved studies stratified by alcohol dose? Are the estimates obtained using a meta-regression model? Please add some details to the text.

Discretionary revisions

Define the acronym AUD before using it.

Specify that clinical setting means patients with AUD.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests