

Reviewer's report

Title: Stroke and plasma markers of milk fat intake - a prospective nested case-control study

Version: 2 **Date:** 4 March 2009

Reviewer: Maria Pfeuffer

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Minor errors:

- page 5, line 15, randomly selected from the the MONICA and VIP cohorts for each case and rather than control ?
- Reference 16: spelling error: membranes
- Reference 28, spelling error: preceding

I suggest that the authors comment very briefly on the fact that there was an association with phospholipid 17:0 and 15:0+17:0 but not with cholesteryl ester 17:0 and 15:0+17:0. Is this because of the lower concentration of the fatty acids in this fraction and thus higher measurement errors? Or is there also a certain selectivity of incorporation of this fatty acids in the different lipid fractions? Undoubtedly phospholipids have a more functional role than CE.

To respond to the detailed questions:

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined? Yes
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work? Yes
3. Are the data sound and well controlled? Yes
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? Yes
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? Yes
6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? Yes
7. Is the writing acceptable? Yes