

“Systematic review with meta-analysis of the epidemiological evidence  
relating smoking to type 2 diabetes”

By Peter N. Lee and Katharine J. Coombs

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Reply to reviewer comments

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Reviewer 1 (ID 02921008) stated “This is an excellent study. The only lacking item is perhaps some good plots, like effective sizes and funnel plots”.

Reviewer 2 (ID 03441297) stated “Please summary your results in figures and tables both. In the first paragraph of ‘Introduction’, the time is duplicated”.

We thank the reviewers for their comments and the time spent reading the paper. Because the comments to some extent overlap, I consider them together below.

The text has been read through carefully, and various minor changes made. This includes correcting the duplicated instances of 2015 in the first paragraph of the introduction.

An additional Table 7 has been added to give the detailed results for ever vs. never smoking.

In response to the request for plots of effect sizes, Figures 1 to 3 have been added, which give forest plots for current vs. never smoking, separately for females, males and sexes combined as the figures would have been too large. Similar sets of three figures have been prepared for current vs. non smoking, former vs. never smoking and ever vs. never smoking and have been made available in Additional File 10.

The request for funnel plots relate to the investigation of publication bias. More detail on publication bias appears in many places now. Tables 3, 5 and 7 give results for significance of publication bias in the line of overall results. Additional files 2, 4, 6 and 8 now include results of testing for publication bias in all the data subsets considered. Figures 4 to 6 give funnel plots for current vs. never smoking, separately by sex, with similar figures for the other three main indices studied (e.g. current vs. non-smoking) given in additional File 10.