

I thank the two reviewers for the time they spent reviewing my editorial.

Reviewer 01468039 suggested three changes all of which have been implemented.

1 Softwares available for meta-analysis

*Answer:* As regards software available I have added an extra paragraph at the end of the section “Entering data”.

2 Other quality scores available for assessing quality of observational studies

*Answer:* As regards study quality I have extended the paragraph in the section study quality.

3 Combing results from different types of observational studies : some meta-analysis will combine data from case control cohort or cross-sectional studies.

*Answer:* As regards combining results from different types of observational studies there is now a complete new section “combining relative risks and odds ratios”.

Reviewer 02478683 was happy with the original and did not ask for any modifications.

Otherwise, apart from a very small number of changes to slightly improve the English and clarity, no other changes have been made.