

Marks

Question 18 (4 marks)

Investigators gathered data on a group of 100 smokers for a period of 10 years. During this time 12 people in the group developed lung cancer, two died in traffic accidents, and three died of heart attacks. The investigators used this data to state that smoking caused lung cancer.

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Describe how this investigation could be improved.

By gathering data on an equal number of non-smokers and comparing the incidence of lung cancer in smokers and non-smokers. It could also be improved by collecting background health data on all individuals in the study, as lung cancer may be prevalent in their family, and thus could be a genetic factor.