Reviewer's report

Title: A comparison of heart failure in Chinese and non-Chinese Canadians

Version: 1 Date: 14 September 2013

Reviewer: Miyuki Tsuchihashi-Makaya

Reviewer's report:

Major Comment
The authors have conducted a population-based observational study to compare the clinical characteristics, drug treatment, and 1-year outcomes of Chinese and non-Chinese patients with heart failure. In this study, Chinese heart failure patients were more likely to have a non-ischemic etiology, hypertension as comorbidity, and a low ACE inhibitor prescription rate. The rates of death and readmission within one year among Chinese patients were comparable to those of non-Chinese patients.

Although the data source was relatively large, this study has several severe problems in its discussion of the ethnic differences among clinical features of heart failure.

Minor Comment
1. In the description of the statistical analysis presented in the Methods section, the authors stated that the mortality model included 23 candidate predictors, and the readmission model included 36 candidate predictors, based on previous studies. A detailed description of these candidate predictors should be included in the manuscript or in a table.
2. Why have adjusted hazard ratios been used to compare the 1-year mortality between Chinese patients and non-Chinese patients?
3. The authors should provide a more thorough discussion of the differences between this study and the study by Kaul, et al. (Heart 2011; 97:1048-53) concerning the impact of ethnicity on mortality.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.