Title: Uric acid is a risk factor for ischemic stroke and all-cause mortality in the general population. A gender specific analysis from The Tromso Study.

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Reviewer: maria lorenza L muiesan

Reviewer's report:

Authors have evaluated the association between serum uric acid levels and all cause mortality, ischemic stroke and myocardial infarction in the population sample enrolled into the Tromso study, including 2696 men and 3004 women. The prospective evaluation has a follow up period of 15 years for all cause mortality and 12 years for cerebrovascular and cardiac events.

The results show that uric acid is associated with an increased risk of all cause death, after adjusting for several confounders and to an increased risk of stroke in men, but not in women.

No association with MI incidence was observed.

The results confirm previous observations, although in this study more confounders were evaluated and included in the statistical analysis.

The dependence of the relationship between uric acid and MI on lipids is interesting and well discussed.

If uric acid is not associated with an increased risk of MI or stroke in women, which could be the causes of death in women associated to hypeuricemia? authors could speculate on this point.

In order to explain the increased risk of stroke in men, the possible influence of UA on aortic stiffness in men but not in women could be mentioned (see Vlachopoulos et al)

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.