Reviewer's report

Title: Usual choline and betaine dietary intake and incident coronary heart disease: the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) study

Version: 2 Date: 4 June 2007

Reviewer: Majken Karoline Jensen

Reviewer's report:

General
The authors have addressed most of my previous comments, except for one misunderstanding with regard to the use of the data from visit 3. Below, I have inserted a few comments with regard to this version of the paper.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1) There must be a misunderstanding with regard to the use of dietary information at visit 3. Since this is a prospective cohort study, my suggestion was that the investigators could make use of the repeated measurement of choline intake by simply updating the variable (among participants that have not developed CHD yet). This should not (as the authors’ reply implies) result in loss of power, but rather improve the precision in the estimate.

2) The authors have now performed analyses adjusted for saturated fatty acids, meat and cholesterol intake. I hope the authors agree that this model is importance for the study of choline, and I therefore suggest that they include the results not only in the text but in Table 3 as well.

3) Since this manuscript was submitted results on the association between choline and betaine intake and CHD has become available in the Dutch EPIC cohort (Dalmeijer et al 2007). The present manuscript would benefit from referencing and commenting on that paper.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests