Reviewer's report

Title: Reproductive factors and oesophageal cancer in Chinese women: a case-control study

Version: 1 Date: 7 February 2011

Reviewer: Ian Beales

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting, but relatively small study. The authors have presented their data and arguments clearly.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The main issues relates to the histological types of cancer studied here. There seems to be no doubt that adenocarcinoma and squamous carcinoma are different aetiologies and pathogenesis and it would not be at all surprising if they had different relationships to parity etc. The current data needs representing to provide the relationships with the two different cancers. In addition how where these cancers diagnosed?

2. What effects were made to confound for other medications - it seems quite clear that aspirin and NSAID use protects against some forms of oesophageal cancer, was this analyzed?

3. Some more definition is needed for some of the potential confounding factors - how was reflux characterised in this study? Oesophageal cancer is typically associated with weight loss but how was the BMI related to the cases defined?

4. Please provide the relevant code numbers for the ethics and governance approvals

Minor revisions

5. First is spelt incorrectly in the conclusions

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'