Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 30 March 2011

Reviewer: Ian Beales

Reviewer's report:

This iteration of the manuscript is much improved and a pleasure to read. The paper is easy to follow and logical.

Major Compulsory Revisions.
1. I do not understand how the authors claim that the risk of esophageal cancer is inversely related to age at first birth? Pages 3 and 9. The risk appears to increase with age at first birth. If the risk were inversely related to age at first birth would not the OR be lower for those mothers giving birth later in life?

2. Was any effort made to correct for the consumption of potential confounding factors particularly aspirin and NSAID use? It may be that these factors are not prevalent in this population but even if this is the case, the manuscript should cover this.

3. Although I do think the overall paper would be improved by actually including the data for squamous and adenocarcinomas separately as well as pooled. The authors do mention briefly, some subgroup analysis but I do feel that at the very least the OR for birth age (the main significant finding of this study) should be provided separately for both histological types of cancer. These data can be provided within the text of the results section. Even if not statistically significant, it would be useful to include these.

Discretionary Revisions
4. I would recommend including tables on squamous and adenocarcinomas separately as well as the pooled data.

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