Reviewer's report

Title: Hormone Replacement Therapy is associated with Gastro-Oesophageal Reflux Disease: a retrospective cohort study

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Reviewer: Tommy Lee

Reviewer's report:

Congratulations on a well written paper with some interesting statistical analysis. While I appreciate the authors' attempt at clarifying an important question relation to HRT and GORD, there are significant limitations in their study, which I think bear further discussion.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

The weaknesses primarily stem around the definition of GORD and the use of PPI prescription status:

1. GORD is often over-diagnosed and I am not convinced that this data is providing a true estimation of the incidence of GORD in the population. Not having standardized diagnostic criteria for GORD is a significant weakness, especially considering how subjective GORD symptoms are, and how much they overlap with dyspepsia and other gastric or esophageal pathology.

2. Similarly PPI use is not a reliable metric, as PPIs are not only generally over-prescribed, but are also used to treat non-GORD conditions including peptic ulcer disease, laryngopharyngeal reflux, and other forms of dyspepsia.

3. In addition, while the statistics are impressive, they could be focused more so that it is clearer to the reader what the most relevant and important findings are. Why are significant findings only occurring in certain analyses (univariate vs adjusted etc.)? Can they comment further on this?

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests