Reviewer's report

Title: Alcohol consumption is associated with an increased risk of erosive esophagitis and Barrett's epithelium in Japanese men

Version: 1 Date: 14 June 2008

Reviewer: Yoshihisa URITA

Reviewer's report:

Dear Dr. Tomoyuki Akiyama,

Your manuscript entitled “Alcohol consumption is associated with an increased risk of erosive esophagitis and Barrett's epithelium in Japanese men” has been reviewed. The authors conclude that alcohol consumption plays an important role in the etiology of erosive esophagitis and Barrett's epithelium in Japanese men. This manuscript is of enough interest and describes original work that merits its publication in the Journal of MBC Gastroenterology. Although the work was of good quality, the manuscript required some revisions as below;

1. There was no description of the reason that patients attended to the hospital and underwent an upper endoscopic examination. In Japan, most of patients with reflux esophagitis do not complain of typical GERD symptoms, including heartburn and regurgitation, whereas some patients without erosive gastritis have persistent heartburn. It is possible that heavy drinkers may be insensitive to gastroesophageal reflex of gastric acid, resulting in taking a greater amount of ethanol.

2. Authors should describe the mean value of age, and BMI, and the rate of subjects with smoking habit in each group of regular drinkers (<25.0g, 25.0-50.0g, and >50.0g).

3. Based on the results that alcohol consumption in Japanese men is associated with a statistically significant increased risk of erosive esophagitis and Barrett’s epithelium regardless of the presence of hiatal hernia, is alcohol consumption more likely to contribute to developing erosive esophagitis? The author had better describe this in the Discussion Section.

4. In Table 2, p-value is unwritten. The author should fill in a blank.

I believe that you can modify your paper by considering the above-mentioned comments to make this paper into better form.

Yours sincerely,

Yoshihisa Urita, MD, FACG

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.