Reviewer’s report

Title: Macroscopic Extent of Gastric Mucosal Atrophy: Increased Risk Factor for Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma in Japan

Version: 1 Date: 29 March 2009

Reviewer: Theodore Rokkas

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting paper which might have practical implications in identifying people at high risk for ESCC, provided that other studies will confirm their data. The only minor point is that the authors should include in their discussion a recent meta-analysis, "Rokkas T et al: Relationship between Helicobacter pylori infection and esophageal neoplasia: A meta-analysis. Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol 2007;5:1413-1417" in which no relationship was found between ESCC and Helicobacter pylori infection (including the Cag A status).

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.