Reviewer's report

Title: Association between Asymptomatic Hyperuricemia and New-onset Chronic Kidney Disease in Japanese Male Workers: A Long-term Retrospective Cohort Study

Version: 1 Date: 2 December 2010

Reviewer: Harald Mischak

Reviewer's report:

In their manuscript “Association between asymptomatic hyperuricemia....”, Kawashima et al. investigated asymptomatic hyperuricemia in 1285 Japanese male workers. The authors convincingly show the association between asymptomatic hyperuricemia and development of CKD. I only have a few comments that require minor revisions:

1) Some of the Kaplan-Meier curves appear faulty, especially evident in Fig 1B, where the stepwise increase that reflects individual patients is not identical. I recommend carefully examining the curves, and the corresponding values.

2) The authors correctly point out that diabetic nephropathy in its initial stages is generally characterized by hyperfiltration, and not reduction of GFR. As a consequence, it appears much more appropriate to examine rise in urinary albumin in these patients, rather than decline in GFR. I suggest investigating the association of diabetes with increase in urinary albumin and base any conclusion on the association of onset of CKD with diabetes on urinary albumin. If this is not possible (due to the data not being available), then it seems appropriate to state that no conclusion on an association of diabetes with CKD can be drawn from the data available. Suggesting that diabetes may not be associated with CKD clearly contradicts the current knowledge, and must be based on much more substantial data.

3) The figure legend is sketchy (at best), and must be improved upon.

4) Investigation of the correlation of the numeric values of uric acid levels with the decline in GFR may be helpful, and could show the association even more convincingly.

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