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: 2 Date: 7 February 2011

Reviewer: Harald Mischak

Reviewer's report:

In the revised version of their manuscript "Association between asymptomatic hyperuricemia and new-onset CKD....", Kawashima et al. have addressed my previous concerns.

Unfortunately, the correlation analysis between the numeric variables UA and GFR, also at later timepoints, were negative: no correlation could be found. These findings are really unexpected, and shed some doubts on the interpretation of the data. Not being an expert in statistics, it seems that by employing dichotomous variables (UA below or above 7, GFR below of above 60), association can be found, but not when the continuous variables are used. As biology is generally continuous and not dichotomous, I would consider the argument based on the continuous variable the by far stronger one, indicating that UA is not associated with later GFR decline, hence is not a predictor of CKD.

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'