Reviewer's report

Title: Adherence to the USDA dietary recommendations for fruit and vegetable intake and risk of fatal stroke among ethnic groups: a prospective cohort study

Version: 1 Date: 25 February 2013

Reviewer: chenya huang

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
Please clarify why hypertension was not part of the stratified models.
Please clarify whether there are disparities in the distribution of other risk factors (diabetes, hypertension, smoking, body mass), amongst the different ethnic groups.
Please clarify whether the recorded prevalence of hypertension and diabetes has been verified by medical records, or are based only on what has been reported by the participants, and whether the diagnosis of hypertension is based on blood pressure figures. Is there any information on whether the different ethnic groups have similar understanding of what is meant by hypertension and diabetes and whether they have equal access to diagnostic facility and treatment to make the data comparable.

- Minor Essential Revisions
Death due to ischemic stroke and death due to hemorrhagic stroke should also be separately analyzed if the data is available.
Conversion factor for serving to gram should be stated for food group intake since there is worldwide variation in what is meant by servings.
Although the authors stated that a similar trend was seen when categorical variable based on levels of adherence was used, this data should be available perhaps as a supplementary data table.

Discretionary Revisions
The authors might like to clarify that their study is not designed to study the impact of diet on non fatal or total stroke. Their results does not apply to any possibility of an effect of adherence on stroke incidence.

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.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests