Reviewer's report

Title: Can selenium levels act as a marker of colorectal cancer risk?

Version: 1 Date: 7 February 2013

Reviewer: MUKESH VERMA

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary Revisions

The manuscript is clinically very significant because of its implication in colorectal cancer prevention. Authors have demonstrated that a critical concentration of selenium in the body may prevent cancer. Higher or lower concentrations of this antioxidant may contribute in cancer development. Early detection markers of colorectal cancer are needed and this work contributes to achieve this goal.

The logic of selecting two different populations for evaluating selenium’s role in cancer development is very well explained because diets in different geographical locations have different concentration of selenium.

Failure of SELECT should be explained in details. Why the authors think that their study with small number of participants is better than large SELECT study.

Discuss about the role of selenium in CRC in different ethnic groups and races.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

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'