Reviewer’s report

Title: Recent alcohol consumption and risk of incident ovarian carcinoma: a pooled analysis of 5,342 cases and 10,358 controls from the Ovarian Cancer Association Consortium

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Reviewer: Matteo Rota

Reviewer’s report:

The author’s responses to my comments are indeed satisfactory. However, the manuscript needs a very minor essential revision. Moreover, I personally need a small clarification, and after that I will indeed accept the manuscript for publication in BMC Cancer.

Minor essential revisions:

• Page 9 row 19 and Page 24 row 2. Please change “Funnel” with Forest. A funnel plot is used in meta-analysis to check publication bias. Figure 1 Panel A and B represents a Forest plot.

• Page 12 rows 7, 8, 11, and 12. Please add % after the value of the I2 statistic, i.e. I2=75%.

Discretionary revisions

• I have just seen from Table 3 that the analyses between total alcohol and wine intake and histological types of ovarian cancer are conducted on 4030 women (4695 without the application of the pathology-based algorithm, Supplementary Table 3), and not on the total sample of 5342 ovarian carcinomas (i.e., 5342-4695=650 missing values). The same for Table 4, where the analyses are conducted on 1379 out of 1455 borderline tumors (i.e., 76 missing values). Indeed, as stated by the authors, there are an appreciable proportion of grade 3 mucinous ovarian carcinomas excluded from the analyses following the application of the pathology-based algorithm. However, is a proportion of missing histological type due to missing data and/or due to the presence of undifferentiated/mixed or unclassified carcinomas? In this case, I think that it could be useful for the reader to briefly state within the “Alcohol and ovarian tumor histologic types” section that “The histological classification of the carcinoma was available for … out of 5342 carcinomas and … out of 1455 borderline tumors.”

• Page 5 row 17. Missing point after “Table 1”.

• Page 5 row 22. Missing bracket: “…(AUS) [59]).

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.