Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Gastric Helicobacter pylori Infection Associates with an Increased Risk of Colorectal Polyps

**Version:** 1  
**Date:** 22 December 2013

**Reviewer:** Asahi Hishida

**Reviewer’s report:**

The research paper by Brim, et al. investigated the intriguing association of H. pylori infection with risk of CRC. Although this association is not yet considered as an established one, this reviewer thinks that this manuscript is worth being published in this journal in light of its potential importance in the field of cancer epidemiology and prevention, after the authors’ consideration for revision for the following points.

1) As the association of HP infection with CRC risk is not yet established and thus may be unfamiliar to most of the general readers, this reviewer recommends the authors to make their introduction a bit more like a systematic review style (a bit more precise review of this association would be appreciated).

2) As many of the readers may not be familiar with the “baseline alarm features” (page 9), and this notion is considered important in the context of CRC early detection/prevention, I recommend the authors to describe/explain it briefly in the corresponding section.

3) How was the Cag A positive rate in the study population, and how was it compared with the general African-American population? Are the Cag A’s of H. pylori residing in Af-Am patients’ stomachs Western type Cag A’s or Eastern type ones? Related to this, what is supposed to be the clinical implications of HP Ab- & Cag Ab+ subjects in Table 4?

4) Is the sample size of the present study population large enough to draw a reliable conclusion, including those of the subgroup analyses (H. pylori status, etc.)?

5) While the study population is limited to Af-Am in the present study, some readers may also be curious about this association in other races/ethnicities. Please discuss if possible.

6) The “baseline high risk” in Table 2 may need some additional explanation, maybe in the footnotes or in other appropriate sections. Please consider describing it.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable
Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.