Reviewer's report

Title: Etiological study of esophageal squamous cell carcinoma in an endemic region: a population-based case control study in Huaian, China

Version: 3 Date: 10 December 2006

Reviewer: Shunqing Xu

Reviewer's report:

A significant improve in presentation of the article submitted this time compared with the previous one, however, here is a few notes should be considered summarized on the following points:

1. How to get 107 diagnosed cases, from hospital or population screening? More information about the 5 township should be helpful to understand
2. Maybe, some ESCCs was not excluded in “health control ” with esophageal lesion, especially in Taihang Mountain area, because these lesion didn’t confirmed by endoscopy

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests