Reviewer's report

Title: Fatty fish and fish omega-3 fatty acid intakes decrease the breast cancer risk: a case-control study

Version: 1 Date: 9 February 2009

Reviewer: Kaoru Hirose

Reviewer's report:

1. Major Compulsory revisions
(1) A number of risk factors for breast cancer have been established, most of which relate to reproductive events. Risk is increased by an early onset of menarche, nulliparity, late age at first birth and late natural menopause. The authors failed to observe these definite associations among the present study population. It may be indeed impossible for the reader to critically evaluate to which extent the controls reflect the exposure prevalence in the study base which gave rise to the cases. The authors should provide a bit more discussion on this point.

(2) I would like to know the meat, fruit and vegetables intake among subjects who have higher intake of fish. Please provide the information of nutrient intake according to #3 fatty acids intake level. The intake frequency of fish may tend to be negatively associated with the intake of meat, or to be positively associated with the intake of fruit and vegetables. This effect observed in the present study may be related, in part, to lower intake of meat, higher intake of dietary fiber and antioxidant vitamins.

(3) The results form validation study concerning estimation of fish #3 fatty acids or fish intake should be helpful.

2. Minor Essential Revisions
<Background>
(first paragraph) fish old --> fish oil ?

<Method>
1. I would like to know how many food items were included in fatty and lean fish group. Please list up the kind of fish of each fish group.

2. The author should state briefly the energy-adjusted method in text.

<Results>
Is the statement of Table 4 is right ? Please make sure the values of ORs.

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 interest.