Reviewer’s report

Title: The incidence and risk of developing a second primary esophageal cancer in patients with oral and pharyngeal carcinoma: a population-based study in Taiwan over a 25 year period

Version: 2 Date: 22 July 2009

Reviewer: Zuo-Feng Zhang

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-written manuscript, but needs some revisions.

1. Major revision: Additional sites needs to be studied includign lung and other alcohol related cancers in order to test hypothesis that betel quid chewing and second primary esophageal cancer. In addition, it is suggested to stratify study period as 1979-1992, 1993-2003.

2. Minor revision. A clear definition for second primary cancer is needed. In the most of second primary cancer study, a six month (after first primary cancer) cut-off point is used.

3. Minor revision. Presenting observed person years in each of tables, presenting gender-specific SIRs for each tables.

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