**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Folate intake and depressive symptoms in Japanese workers considering SES and job stress factors: J-HOPE study

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 9 February 2012

**Reviewer:** Toshihiko Satoh

**Reviewer's report:**

Major Compulsory Revisions
This paper aims to confirm the association between folate intake and depressive symptom using Japanese workers as sample population. The authors insist that significance and novelty of this paper are taking the job stress scores and SES factors into consideration.

The result that there was an inverse association between depression score and folate intake is significant to some extent, but the interpretation of the results should be done with caution. One of the reasons is, as the authors have mentioned, the cross-sectional nature of the study. Another is that candidate risk factors of depression, folate intake, SES and job stress could be influenced each other. The authors made multiple regression analyses in order to see each effect on depression score by adjusting other factors. However, these analyses may mislead the result, unless single regressions and correlation analyses were conducted before doing multiple regressions. I recommend that the authors should do those steps or use another more sophisticated method for this type of analysis.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests