Reviewer's report

Title: Alcohol consumption and the risk of morbidity and mortality for different stroke types - A systematic review and meta-analysis

Version: 1 Date: 10 February 2010

Reviewer: Tetsuya Ohira

Reviewer's report:

The present systematic review and meta-analysis found that, heavy alcohol consumption increases the risk of both ischemic and hemorrhagic strokes, while light or moderate alcohol consumption may be protective against ischemic stroke. This is sort of a confirmation study, but well designed and the results are interesting.

1. One thing that would help is to add the results of associations between alcohol consumption and stroke subtypes stratified by study design, cohort study and cross-sectional study.

2. One of the main results of this study is the difference between mortality and morbidity as an endpoint, especially women. However, the mechanisms by which higher effects of alcohol on mortality compared with morbidity have not been discussed in the text. The authors should discuss this in detail in the discussion section.

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 interests.