Reviewer’s report

Title: Does decreasing serum uric acid level prevent hypertension? - A nested RCT in cohort study: Rationale, methods, and baseline characteristics of study cohort

Version: 6 Date: 14 July 2013

Reviewer: Francesca Viazzi

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The reviewer appreciate the effort that the authors put in improving the manuscript.

Nevertheless, the main problem of the present protocol is the plurality of lifestyle recommendation will be suggested to the participant. In fact, the education package of dietary intervention might be associated with a reduced risk in the development of hypertension due to the variation in sodium intake rather than to the decrease in serum uric acid possibly achieved in the intervention group. These individualized recommendation will make very difficult the interpretation of results that cannot be analyzed on the basis of important information such as the sodium intake. While authors stated that urine will not be collected, a surrogate estimation of sodium intake should be devised (i.e., from a detailed record of diet).

This point should be detailed in the manuscript

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

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