Reviewer's report

Title: Association between shift work and obesity among female nurses: Korean Nurses' Survey

Version: 2

Date: 15 November 2013

Reviewer: Masaya Takahashi

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

Thank you so much for showing us the revised manuscript and its response letter.

It seems unreasonable to exclude the non-shift group (almost the half of the sample) just due to no information about the past exposure to shift work. This group could be regarded principally as 0 year of shift work experience, which represents a control group without circadian disruption and sleep deficiency when determining the influence of shift work upon health, obesity in this report.

Fortunately, the re-analysis as a reference of non-shift workers showed significantly increases in ORs for both overweight and obesity of Tertile 3 group in a shift-dose dependent manner. These results are rather clearer than those from the analysis within the current shift work groups. Discussion also may become more straightforward (Page 13).

Taken together, conducting the re-analysis including the reported non-shift workers is strongly recommended. The concern of the past shift workers among the control group can be discussed as one of the possible limitations in this study.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.