Reviewer’s report

Title: A Prospective Cohort Study of Stroke Mortality and Arsenic in Drinking Water in Bangladeshi Adults

Version: 2 Date: 8 January 2014

Reviewer: NAILA KHALIL

Reviewer’s report:

Dear Editor

The article “A Prospective Cohort Study of Stroke Mortality and Arsenic in Drinking Water in Bangladeshi Adults”. The revised manuscript incorporates suggested reviewers’ comments and is considerably improved. However, following are some comments:

Minor Essential Revisions

• Abstract-
  o Describe that stroke mortality Hazard Ratio (HR) and 95% Confidence Interval was calculated.
  o Why is abstract reporting stroke mortality HR and person years as same numbers?
  o The abstract presents stroke mortality but the results in the main manuscript are presented as CBD mortality which is confusing to the reader-- outcome of interest was death from stroke. Please be consistent in the presentation of results in abstract and the paper.
  o The overall test of trend is duplicated –suggest delete the sentence “---observed (Ptrend=0.00058); for men (Ptrend=0.45) and for women (Ptrend=0.00004), respectively.
  o Conclusion: suggest this conclusion “The result suggests that arsenic exposure was associated with increased stroke mortality risk in this population, and was more significant in women compared to men”.

# Results

o Results are presented in confusing order; please follow the format suggested below; preferably in separate paragraphs with small headings to distinguish the stroke mortality HR for men and women separately, person year separately for men and women in a different paragraph:

Present the stroke mortality HR and 95% CI overall in the two categories (10-49, and >50) compared to the referent. Then separately for men, for women, and then describe the person year overall, for men, and for women, and then describe the test of trend, overall, for men and women.
# Discussion

Suggest move the discussion of betel use after presenting the mechanism of action of arsenic (the main exposure)

Thank you for the opportunity to review this paper.

Sincerely,

Naila Khalil, MBBS, MPH, PhD
Assistant Professor Community Health
Center for Global Health
Boonshoft School of Medicine | Wright State University,
Dayton, OH. USA
Naila.khalil@wright.edu

**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