Reviewer's report

Title: Changes of Hormone Replacement Therapy in Menopausal Women: An Observational Study in Taiwan

Version: 4 Date: 17 January 2007

Reviewer: Virginie RINGA

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The work has clearly improved but precisions are needed concerning the results of the logistic regressions. Table 3 is still difficult to understand: Percentages in the second column of table 3 are not completely informative. Percentages giving information for the reader are the proportions of outpatient visits with a prescription of MHT in each category (and not percentages of outpatient visits in each category). Actually, these percentages give information, without adjustment on other variables, of the association between for instance WHI, or type of medical institution, and prescription of MHT. The results given for model 3 are confusing: it is not correct to test for an interaction between variable X (for instance type of institution) and variable Y (publication of the WHI), and to give the OR corresponding to the simple effect of variable X (type of institution) in the model including the interaction between these two variables. It is still difficult to understand the meaning of the ORs presented for the interactions: OR= 6.25 (model 3, « WHI effect on metropolitan hospital « : does it mean that after the WHI the probability of having a prescription increases in metropolitan hospital and decreases in academic medical center? It would be interesting to have the percentages outpatient visits with a prescription of MHT, before and after WHI, stratified on the type of institution (even if these results do not take into account other variables).

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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