Reviewer’s report

Title: Alcohol consumption and carotid artery structure: a population-based cross-sectional study of Korean adults aged 50 years and older

Version: 2 Date: 15 June 2009

Reviewer: Daejung Kim

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I think this study is well designed, and composed of large sized data. The main finding that alcohol consumption might be protective role to carotid atherosclerosis is very interesting. However, if these finding would be acceptable, several explanation should be needed.

1. Why are different between CCA-IMT and carotid plaque as association with alcohol consumption?
2. Why are inconsistent between male and female?
3. In your data, higher alcohol consumption group is more prevalent than never or smaller group in terms of hypertension, diabetes, and hypercholesterolemia, and more obese, and proportion of current smoker in higher alchol group is much more than other groups. All the cardiovascular risk factors are bad. How can you explain the finding that association between conventional atherosclerotic risk factors and CIMT is not seen in your data?

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.