Reviewer’s report

Title: Quantification of the relative contribution of estrogen to bone mineral density in men and women

Version: 1 Date: 11 November 2013

Reviewer: Deborah M Kado

Reviewer’s report:

L Ho-Pham and colleagues have submitted an overall well-written manuscript confirming previous reports regarding the significance of serum estrogen in association with bone mineral density in both men and women, and in Asians as opposed to predominantly Caucasian populations. There are a few minor essential revisions that should be made prior to considering the manuscript acceptable for publication that are detailed below:

1. Abstract, 2nd sentence under "Results" - higher E2 "were" should be changed to "was"
2. Abstract, under "Conclusions" - the use of the term "bone loss" implies a temporal association, but this is a cross-sectional study - therefore, would change the wording from "bone loss" to "bone mineral density."
3. Introduction - 2nd paragraph, last sentence - estrogen "do" is incorrect usage - should be estrogen "does" and "change" should be "changes"
4. Introduction - last two paragraphs refer to "general" population," but believe that authors mean "Asian" or "Vietnamese" population as the definition of "general" depends on the reader’s point of view.
5. Study Design and Participants - need to define "renal failure" - chronic kidney disease stage XX, for example. Also multi-myeloma should be changed to multiple myeloma. Finally, "and" should be changed to "and/or" or just "or."
6. Measurement and data collection - "solicited information"... should add "from participants"
7. Bone mineral density - 3rd sentence - needs an "a" before "standard phantom"
8. Data analysis- use of a t-test implies only testing the significance between only two variables - do the authors mean multivariable linear regression?
9. Data analysis - "statistical significance" should be "statistically significant"
10. Discussion, 3rd paragraph - "aromatse" should be "aromatase"
11. Discussion, 5th paragraph - "that" should be inserted between "men" and "has"
12. Discussion, last paragraph, last sentence- delete the word "advanced"

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
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 in relation to this paper.