Reviewer’s report

Title: Screening for low bone mass with quantitative ultrasonography in a community without dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry: population-based survey

Version: 5  Date: 1 February 2006

Reviewer: Masayuki Iki

Reviewer’s report:

General
The authors revised the manuscript again according to the comments raised by the reviewer but the several problems still remain.

Major Compulsory Revisions

Minor Essential Revisions
1. P2 L6 & P4 L1 from bottom The authors should delete ‘to support the hypothesis that low QUS values indicate low bone mass’ from the second objective of the study which appears in abstract and introduction section.
2. P4 L1 from bottom The reviewer is not quite sure about the meaning of the third limitation concerning the interracial comparisons of T-scores for QUS. These sentences do not seem to state the limitation of the study and should be revised.
3. Table 2 Again, the mean and SD of BUA for combined male and female subjects are not necessary because these values depend on the proportion of males or females in the subjects or, in other words, can change with the change in the gender distribution.
4. Table 1, 2 Again, one decimal place is enough for the mean and SD for BMI and BUA. The authors should know how many significant figures these values have from their precision.

Discretional Revisions

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.