Reviewer’s report

Title: Prostate specific antigen for prostate cancer in a European population: a systematic review

Version: 1 Date: 16 May 2009

Reviewer: Motoyoshi Tanaka

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions are required. The reasons are below;
Prostate specific antigen (PSA) is one of the most common and accurate blood tumor markers in human prostate cancer. However, it is also well know that PSA has a low specificity. In fact, less than 4 ng/ml of PSA does not fully support innocent for prostate cancer. There are many papers presented to increase sensitivity and specificity of prostate cancer diagnosis using not only total PSA but also PSA based parameters, such as PSA velocity, PSA doubling time, or PSA density etc. In this review, the authors purport to show data indicating a systematic review of PSA in European populations, warning its limitation of diagnosis of prostate cancer without prostate biopsy. Although the authors succeed to assess and review over 3,000 papers, the impact of this review is not striking on PSA as a tool of diagnosis of prostate cancer. While this is a possible outcome of PSA review, it is unclear to discern due to total PSA based statistics. More deeper investigations are needed to discuss using rather than total PSA in accurate diagnosis of prostate cancer.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.