Reviewer’s report

Title: Association of angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor therapy and comorbidity in diabetes: results from the Vermont Diabetes Information System

Version: 2 Date: 21 October 2008

Reviewer: Fakhredin Sayed Tabatabaei

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. The authors have presented a well-defined database, and the manuscript is also nicely written. The fundamental problem with this manuscript, however, is the discrepancy between the nature of the study and the claimed hypothesis/conclusion.

As mentioned by the authors, this is a "cross-sectional study" in nature, and, therefore, falls into the category of "descriptive studies." Such study design is not suitable to claim any association between an exposure (use of ACE inhibitors) and an outcome (cancer / peptic ulcer), simply because it does not provide any information regarding the timing. This is particularly problematic in the case of the cancer outcome, since we know that the latent phase of that disease is very long and most probably exceeds the duration of the ACE inhibitor usage.

A "analytic study design" is needed in order to test the claimed hypothesis.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.