Reviewer's report

Title: Associations between oral contraceptive use and the risk of hypertension in a cross-sectional study of Korean women

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Reviewer: Flavio Fuchs

Reviewer's report:

The authors examined the relationship between OCs use and blood pressure and hypertension in a Korean population-based sample. The subject is still relevant, since both conditions (high blood pressure and use of OC) are quite common in the population. The manuscript is overall OK, the database is representative of the country, the potential for measurement biases always exist in studies like this but are of lower potential impact in the analyses of the associations, and were rightly addressed in discussion. Analyses are OK and the presentation of findings and discussion are straightforward. I don't know why the tables were not embedded in the text and a figure with risk ratios and confidence intervals instead of table 4 would communicate better the findings.

I suggest to highlighting the novelty of this study (to my knowledge), the association with prehypertension as well, including it in the title (and the risks of hypertension and prehypertension...). I fully agree with the authors that prehypertension is a serious problem and will disappear as a separate classification in the future (hypertension will start at 120/80 mmHg).

Minor points: the discussion of mechanisms of blood pressure increasing by OC in introduction could be better placed in discussion.

In limitations; strengths the writer stated “To my knowledge”, I suppose that the other author doesn’t know anything more as well! Please, correct.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests