Reviewer's report

Title: Vegetarian diet and blood lipid profiles: a cross-sectional study of pre- and postmenopausal women

Version: 1 Date: 19 February 2014

Reviewer: Gerald H Tomkin

Reviewer's report:

An analysis of 2002 data. The introduction is clear and the aims concise. The methods well presented. It would be helpful to know how many premenopausal women were on the contraceptive pill. The discussion could be shortened to concentrate on the other studies which have shown similar or different results in regard to lipid changes. It might be easier to discuss only the absolute values rather than ratios when comparing the authors results with other studies. The discussion of fact that the pre and post menopausal women who were vegetarian had significantly lower HDL and similar LDL to omnivores and therefore a potentially more atherogenic profile, seems to have been lost in the unfocused discussion. Discussion about metabolic syndrome and insulin resistance seems irrelevant as blood sugars in the groups were similar and insulin was not measured.

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'