Reviewer’s report

Title: Intake of Fucus vesiculosus, an Edible Brown Seaweed, Affects the Menstrual Cycle and Hormonal Status of Pre-menopausal Women

Version: 2  Date: 5 April 2004

Reviewer: Nagi Kumar

Reviewer’s report:

General

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

At most, with the small number of subjects in this study- it should be a designated a pilot study. How was the sample size calculated? Sample size too small at this point. How was dose of supplement established? - explain this further with appropriate references. Timing of blood draw in the 3 subjects- how was this adjusted for menstrual cycle points- especially when these subjects had irregular periods..how was leuteal or follicular phase established, as this would be critical when hormonal measures are evaluated. Hormonal surges at points in the menstrual cycle may provide false elevated hormonal values. How were patients monitored for compliance to study agent-supplement? Define abnormality of menstrual cycle.

Discussion: Discuss the limitation of this study with a small sample size. What about the dangers of elevated progesterone - discuss the implications of this in the breast and endometrium. Add future directions section at the end.

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes

Declaration of competing interests:

None