Reviewer's report

Title: Alcohol consumption, body mass index and breast cancer risk by hormone receptor status.

Version: 3  Date: 7 May 2015

Reviewer: Timothy P Johnson

Reviewer's report:

I found this a succinct and interesting paper. It focuses on 17-year follow-up effects of alcohol consumption on breast cancer risks in a large cohort of Swedish women aged 30-49 at baseline. A few major recommended revisions:

1. The Discussion section does not explicitly return to the hypotheses that were stated earlier. I strongly recommend that you directly reference your two hypotheses in the discussion.

2. The paper presents several study strengths, which are commendable. It fails to acknowledge any limitations, however. This oversight should be corrected.

3. Table 2: recommend including a "Total" heading over the second column

4. Table 3: the footnote identifies the acronyms for relative risk and confidence interval, but does not actually use these acronyms in the table itself. They, of course, should be presented so that readers understand the numbers in the table. Also, are the confidence intervals set at 95%? This should be clarified. Finally, what test is used to obtain the p-interactions?

One minor revision:

5. on page 6, line 152, recommend deleting "statistically" from the sentence.

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