Reviewer's report

Title: Past oral contraceptive use and high blood pressure in postmenopausal women: an observational cohort study

Version: 4 Date: 30 December 2014

Reviewer: Charumathi Sabanayagam

Reviewer's report:

Authors have responded to most of my previous comments. I still have few comments that need to be addressed.

Abstract:

1. In my previous review, I mentioned that authors should avoid the term ‘risk’ as risk can be assessed only in prospective studies. However, I see the term ‘risk’ being used in this revised version as well (line 62).

2. To my comment about defining high BP, authors mentioned that they defined high BP as ‘current treatment for high BP’. Suggest authors add the term ‘self-reported’ in the definition.

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3. Conclusions: The last sentence, ‘Based on the results of this study and others, past hormonal contraceptive use is unlikely to influence a woman’s future risk of high blood pressure’ imply causality which is not possible with cross-sectional data. This sentence should be removed.

New comment:

Title: As the current study is not a prospective study, authors should remove the term ‘cohort study’. In addition, suggest the authors include the term, ‘self-reported’ before ‘high blood pressure’ as the outcome BP is not measured but was self-reported in the current study.

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.