Reviewer’s report

Title: Dietary calcium intake and mortality risk from cardiovascular disease and all causes: a meta-analysis of prospective cohort studies

Version: 2  Date: 24 June 2014

Reviewer: William B. Grant

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
None

- Minor Essential Revisions

Figure 3 should be redrawn with 800 mg/d as the 1.0 relative risk of CVD mortality. This will permit the reader to quickly see that both low and high calcium intake is associated with increased risk of CVD below about 300 mg/d and above 1250 mg/d.

Why was the figure changed from using 800 mg/d to 500 mg/d?

The abstract should be revised in accordance with this revision, stating optimal, lower and upper values which become statistically significant.

The sentence in the abstract “The risk of all-cause mortality did not decrease further at intakes above 900 mg/day.” Is not clear. It would help if Figure 4 showed the results for calcium intake and all-cause mortality rate. My computer is not functioning well, so I was unable to look at it. It would be better if the readers could easily see it.

p. 10, lines 11-12. Not clear what is meant by “vitamin D may influence the adverse effect of dietary calcium.” Do you mean reduce? Increase?

- Discretionary Revisions

While the English grammar is better, there are still some errors:

p. 10, lines 19-20: “some studies suggests” should be “some studies suggest”

Therefore, please have a technical editor review the manuscript again.

In addition, as noted above, some passages are unclear regarding meaning.

In Table 2, p = 0.076 should be p = 0.08

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
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.