Reviewer's report

**Title:** Early atherosclerosis and cardiac autonomic responses to mental stress: a population-based study of the moderating influence of impaired endothelial function

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 28 February 2010

**Reviewer:** Raymond Yan

**Reviewer's report:**

The authors have adequately responded to the concerns raised and the manuscript has been significantly improved and is of interest to the readership.

My only remaining concern pertained to the well-established, strong and mutual correlations known between blood pressure and each of IMT and FMD. Blood pressure indeed is a simple measurement and an essential parameter which should have been measured at the time of such experimentation and should be adjusted for. The absence of blood pressure measurement posed a relevant and important limitation concerning the validity of the interpretation of the data as presented. While it is not possible to adjust for BP with the data available, this important limitation should deserve a specific mention in the text -- as BP is a known and important confounder (and not residual confounding by yet unknown parameter).

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

**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