**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** Attenuation of microvascular function in those with cardiovascular disease is similar in patients of Indian Asian and European descent

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**Reviewer:** Massimo Pagani

**Reviewer’s report:**

The manuscript “Attenuation of microvascular function in those with cardiovascular disease is similar in patients of Indian and European descent” by Strain et al provides a potentially interesting window on functional determinants of cardiovascular disease.

Authors examined in an observational, cross section design a relatively small group of CAD patients and controls with the aim to verify whether “people with proven coronary artery disease would have attenuated microvascular function compared to those without and that Indian Asians would have poorer microvascular responses”.

Microvascular function was estimated with Laser Doppler flowmetry from the hand skin, under the (untested) assumption that this measure reflects the overall performance of microcirculation (page 1, L 14).

Major findings confirm hypothesis 1 (i.e. difference between controls and patients) but disprove hypothesis 2 (i.e. difference between ethnicity).

**Comments**

The study reads well and the story might be of interest to clinicians in view of the changing mix of patient populations.

However, I would recommend Authors to reconsider their interpretation of data focusing on the existence of a “trend” (type II error?) towards an ethnicity effect. This may well be accounted for by a difference in metabolic-glycemic control (see page 6), but could also reflect other mechanisms, such as the presence of molecular or autonomic changes, that might also be ethnicity related.

Finally the impact of expected multifactorial complexity of the “aetiopathogenetic process” on microvascular function might be only partially explored by the technique employed by these Authors.

**Minor point**

Conclusion change the sentence “We have demonstrated... “ with “We did not detect...”

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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.