Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Evaluation of the Consequences Associated with Diffuse Vascular Disease History in Patients Diagnosed with Peripheral Arterial Disease: Estimates from Saskatchewan Health Data

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 21 June 2010

**Reviewer:** Fernando Abelha

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Evaluation of the Consequences Associated with Diffuse Vascular Disease History in Patients Diagnosed with Peripheral Arterial Disease: Estimates from Saskatchewan Health Data

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The authors present a study to evaluate the impact of diffuse vascular disease (DVD) on prognosis and costs with the objective of estimate the impact of DVD on morbidity, mortality and costs.

The authors used data from Saskatchewan Health, an agency responsible for healthcare administration in the Canadian country that maintains 10 databases tracking all formulary outpatient prescriptions, physician services, hospitalizations, and vital statistics for the approximately 1 million residents covered by provincial health insurance.

The questions posed by the authors are well defined, the methods are appropriate and data sound. The discussion and conclusions are well balanced and adequately supported by the data and limitations of the work are clearly stated. The manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition.

Major Compulsory Revisions

There are no major compulsory revisions.

Minor Essential Revisions

There are no minor essential revisions.

Discretionary Revisions

There are some limitations on the methodology related to registry design based on ICD-9 diagnoses codes as the authors stated in discussion. This data is collected with administrative purposes and have to rely on health care providers to the province of Saskatchewan as the authors stated.

Measured costs are only hospital costs and the authors did not calculate costs associated with ambulatory treatment.

Associated co morbidities, medications and severity of disease was not
evaluated.
There are missing labels on figures which the authors can be trusted to correct.
It is an article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest 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 have no competing interests