Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence of peripheral arterial disease in subjects with moderate cardiovascular risk: Italian results from the PANDORA study

Version: 2 Date: 12 August 2011

Reviewer: David P Brasil

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1) Discretionary suggestion: In the section “discussion” (page 11). Consider shortening the paragraph as it follows: “Subjects without symptoms of the lower limbs and overt CV disease who at risk of PAD, including those less than 50 years with diabetes and one additional risk factor (smoking, dyslipidemia, hypertension, or hyperhomocysteinemia), or aged 50 to 69 with a history of smoking or diabetes, or aged 70 and older need to be further screened for PAD as highlighted in the PARTNERS study [19].”

2) Minor revision: In the section “discussion” (page 12). “…the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)”

3) Discretionary suggestion: In the section “discussion” (page 12). “Previous data reported from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Study (NHANES; 1999-2004) showed a 3% prevalence of low ABI in the low or intermediate risk population [38].”

Perhaps the reference below might further enrich the authors’ discussion. I would recommend the following reading. In 2007 Sumner et al. published an interesting meeting abstract in a supplement of Circulation, indicating that the prevalence of PAD is consistently increasing in asymptomatic adults in the US population as well. The raising prevalence ranged 3.7 to 4.6% (p= 0.001) over a six year time period (NHANES 1999-2004). Please have a look at website:

http://circ.ahajournals.org/cgi/content/meeting_abstract/116/16_MeetingAbstracts/I1_780

Sumner AD; Eid S; Parks A; Edris B; Reed, III JF. Increasing prevalence of peripheral artery disease in the United States: results from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (1999-2004). Circulation 2007;116:I1_780.

4) Discretionary suggestion: In the section “discussion” (page 12). “These results indicate a lack of clarity (?) with regards to the overall role of cholesterol and dyslipidemia as risk factors in the pathogenesis of PAD, corroborating findings from a previous studies [25, 39].”

I would suggest the authors to refer to the section of “dyslipidemia” in the TASC II guidelines for additional inputs on hyperlipidemias as risk factors for PAD.

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 do not have any conflict of interest relating to the present activity. I have acted as a speaker with LIBBS and MSD in the past five years. I do not hold shares in pharmaceutical or device companies. I have no financial or non-financial competing interests related to the present activity.