Reviewer's report

Title: In vitro and clinical studies examining the expression of osteopontin in cigarette smoke-exposed endothelial cells and cigarette smokers

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Reviewer: Kou-Gi Shyu

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Minor Essential Revisions

Bishop et al. reported that osteopontin expression in human endothelial cells after cigarette exposure is oxidative stress dependent and found that serum osteopontin decreased after short-term quit of smoking. The study is interesting and important.

The result of the study may explain the detrimental effect of smoke on atherosclerosis.

Specific comments

1. The other inflammation marker such as interleuvin-6 or tumor necrosis factor-alpha should be measured to support the inflammatory effect of smoke in the in vivo study.

2. Single dose of ascorbate was used in the study. The negative effect of the ascorbate should be confirmed with different doses of ascorbate.

3. Osteopontin serum level should be checked in non-smoking volunteers.

4. The methods and discussion are redundant. They can be shortened.

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'