Reviewer's report

Title: Red cell distribution width is associated with long-term prognosis in patients with stable coronary artery disease

Version: 2 Date: 5 November 2013

Reviewer: Yaron Arbel

Reviewer's report:

I read with interest the article entitled: "Red cell distribution width is associated with long-term prognosis in patients with stable coronary artery disease" by Osadnik et. al.

The demonstrated the prognostic significance of RDW in a cohort of consecutive patients referred for coronary angiography

Major Comments:

1. Please consider using the following statistical tests in order to further our understanding of the subject: IDI and NRI
2. It is not clear from the introduction what is novel in your study. You cite 2 other studies that evaluated similar patients and have a similar large cohort. Please let the reader understand what is new in your manuscript
3. Page 4 (methods)-How many patients were excluded?
4. Please remove table 4. Add the data in the text.
5. It is not clear what value of RDW was used in table 5. Is it the highest quartile compared to the lower one? to the other 3 quartiles? Please elaborate in the text and in the table
6. ROC analysis is not used with Cox regression. You should consider using Harrell's C or other similar tests.

Minor Comments

1. Please review the statistical analysis section. There is a mixup in the signs used to define the borders of each group.
2. There is a lack of consistency. In the abstract you write that you checked subgroups according to kidney disease while in the statistical analysis you do not.
3. Please add RDW values in tables 1-3 below the name of each group

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited
Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests