Reviewer's report

Title: Treatment with betablockers is associated with higher gray-scale median in carotid plaques.

Version: 2 Date: 16 June 2014

Reviewer: Motohiro Shimizu

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. To evaluate the treatment effect of betablockers to GSM, the randomized double-blinded trial should be selected. The cross-sectional design of the present study is a serial shortcoming.
2. The information concerning the types of betablockers should be given.
3. The treatment durations of betablockers, statins, and antiplatelet drugs should also be clarified.
4. In multivariate analysis, BMI should be included as a covarite.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Ref 4 and 4 did not report the relationship between GSM and cardiovascular disease (Introduction, third paragraph). The authors should cite adequate references.
2. Some parts of Introduction in fourth paragraph should be described in Discussion.
3. Figure 2 is not informative. I think it should be discarded.
4. I think that simple and multiple linear regression analyses were not performed in this study (Methods, Statistical analysis, second paragraph)

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.