Reviewer's report

Title: Serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D levels Is Associated with Carotid Atherosclerosis in Normotensive and Euglycemic Chinese Postmenopausal women: The Shanghai Changfeng Study

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Reviewer: Grazyna Sypniewska

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript presents quite a nice piece of work, however some important issues have to be clarified and some informations are missing. The study was performed in quite a high number of apparently healthy postmenopausal nonobese women however, what is striking, with a very low 25(OH)D concentrations. It might be specific for the Chinese women which is not surprising having in mind a high worldwide prevalence of vitamin D insufficiency or deficiency. Mean 25(OH)D concentration in the whole group was very low, in the first to third quartile in the range of severe deficiency 12.4-30.7 nmol/L or deficiency 40.6-53.0 nmol/L. Only these in the fourth quartile were in the range of insufficiency or optimal level (>75 nmol/L). Despite of this, CIMT in all quartiles was well within a normal range, meaning below 0.9 mm. So the authors describe the situation in women with more or less normal lipidemia where CIMT is normal.

The associations of 25(OH)D with CIMT are interesting however, it would be even more interesting to show whether there are differences in CIMT between women with optimal D concentration >75 nmol/L and these with insufficiency 50-75 nmol/L and deficiency. These are the important data which are missing in this paper.

Major compulsory revision is required.

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:

Reviewer declares no conflict of interest.