Reviewer’s report

Title: Rapid decrease in carotid plaque lipid content as assessed by magnetic resonance imaging during treatment of rosuvastatin

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Reviewer: HIROYUKI DAIDA

Reviewer’s report:

The authors demonstrated that moderate-dose rosuvastatin therapy reduces carotid plaque volume among the lipid treatment naïve subjects with asymptomatic carotid lipid-rich atherosclerotic plaques, and plaque stabilization had been achieved within the first three months. Moreover, plaque reduction has continued to 24 months. These findings are interesting; however, this article has contained several concerns.

Major
1. This article demonstrated that rosuvastatin reduced LRNC volume. However, previous studies have already reported that atrovastatin therapy reduced the LRNC volume within 3 months. This article’s conclusion is the same as previous studies. Therefore, new findings should be added such as any correlations between % change in LRNC and other markers to investigate the mechanism of plaque lipid depletion?

2. The data about clinical parameters of baseline in Table 1 is more required. This study is sub analysis of REACH registry, not but prospective interventional trial. The authors should show the data about minute baseline characteristics such as blood examination and other medications.

Minor
1. LDL-C should be calculated by friedewald formula.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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