Reviewer's report

Title: Flow Mediated Dilation of the Brachial Artery: An Investigation of Methods Requiring Further Standardization

Version: 1 Date: 11 January 2007

Reviewer: Eugenio Picano

Reviewer's report:

General
Peretz et al evaluated 26 healthy volunteers with both proximal and distal forearm occlusion to assess flow mediated dilation of the brachial artery and found lower variability with forearm (vs upper arm) occlusion. The paper is clearly written and the results are believable, although the priority is somewhat lowered by the relatively low originality.

Minor comments:
In the 2006 Guidelines of American Society of Echocardiography, it is clearly stated that “when the cuff is placed on the upper part of the arm, reactive hyperemia typically elicits a greater percent change in diameter compared with that produced by the placement of the cuff on the forearm. This may be caused by a greater flow stimulus resulting from recruitment of more resistance vessels, or possibly by direct effects of ischemia on the brachial artery. Compared with forearm cuff occlusion, upper arm occlusion is technically more challenging for accurate data acquisition because of collapse of the brachial artery non visualization of color Doppler flow, and the shift in artery and soft tissue that occur on cuff release.” The confirmatory nature of your findings should be more overtly discussed.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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 I have no competing interests