Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 28 February 2007

Reviewer: Michael Tschakovsky

Reviewer's report:

General
The authors have considerably revised the manuscript and improved the context in which the data is presented. Still one outstanding concern that troubles this reviewer.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
1. in the results section the second paragraph indicates the diameter for 37 sessions with proximal cuff and 25 with distal is 3.8 and 4.2 respectively. I am assuming that this is because more subjects were tested in the proximal, so that is a subject pool with additional subjects that likely are on the small size in terms of artery. This needs to be clarified. If the distal cuff population was a subset of the proximal, then it seems imperative that the data be analyzed in terms of only those subjects that received both. Excess variability in the proximal cuff condition may be because of the obviously different additional subjects. Of course, if I am wrong and the number of subjects receiving both was the same, then I assume some subjects received additional scans with the proximal cuff.

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

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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:
I declare that I have no competing interests.