Reviewer’s report

Title: Measurement of Coronary Calcium Scores or Exercise Testing as Initial Screening Tool in Asymptomatic Subjects at Risk for Coronary Artery Disease: an Evaluation Study

Version: 1 Date: 18 January 2007

Reviewer: Shuichi Hamasaki

Reviewer’s report:

General
This is a good and well-conducted study, which adds information in the literature concerning the usefulness of measurement of coronary calcium scores as initial non-invasive test. However, the following questions have arisen during reading the manuscript;
Several points that must be addressed are the following:

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
1. There is no remarks about that the patients on beta-blocker or nitrates or Ca-antagonists can be underestimated on exercise testing.
2. It is not uncertain why high calcium scores identified a high number of subjects with an indication for a revascularization procedure. Calcium scores may be representative of coronary anatomical information but not coronary vascular function. Is there any data which shows the relation of calcium scores with coronary vascular function?
3. Coronary artery calcium is associated with atherosclerotic plaque development, but the presence or absence of calcium does not allow for reliable distinction between unstable vs stable plaque. Is there any possibility that calcium scores can be underestimated in patients with unstable plaque?

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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?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.