Reviewer's report

Title: Passive Tobacco Exposure Impairs Symptomatic Improvement in Patients with Chronic Angina Undergoing Enhanced External Counterpulsation

Version: 3 Date: 4 August 2008

Reviewer: Ryan Lennon

Reviewer's report:

General
I thank the authors for their consideration of my suggestions. I feel the manuscript is much improved. I have only a handful of comments on the revised manuscript.

Major Compulsory
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1. The data are interesting but not convincing. They are not convincing because of the many study limitations including the definition of SHS (living with a smoker), the lack of measurement of potential arising confounders (obesity, diet, inactivity), and the lack of secondary endpoints such as anti-anginal use and QOL indices to support the observed group differences. As such, I recommend the following changes:

a. Change the title to "Passive Tobacco Exposure May Impair Symptomatic Improvement in Patients with Chronic Angina Undergoing Enhanced External Counterpulsation";

b. Change the last sentence of the first paragraph to "In conclusion, SHS may reduce the anti-anginal effects of EECP among non-smokers."

Minor Essential
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2. Page 7, line 7
Replace "p=NS" with actual p-value.

3. Page 7, line 7
Change "While the SHS subjects..." to "The SHS subjects..."

4. Page 7, line 20
Change "non-HS" to "non-SHS"

5. Page 7, line 23
Replace "p<0.05" with actual p-value.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests.