Reviewer's report

Title: Lipids and carotid plaque in the Northern Manhattan Study (NOMAS)

Version: 1 Date: 14 July 2009

Reviewer: J David Spence

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It would be better in the analyses to use pack-years of smoking rather than smoking status (current/past/never). Smoking status is probably more predictive of events in the short term, but we have found, as was found for IMT in the Bogalusa Heart Study, that pack-years is more strongly related to burden of plaque. It may be worth commenting on this in your paper, as this is not well known.

In a future paper it would be of great interest to contrast IMT and plaque area with respect to their relationship to risk factors, including the lipids and lipoproteins on which you report in this paper.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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.