Reviewer’s report

Title: Lipoprotein profile in older patients with vascular dementia and Alzheimer's disease

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Reviewer: Dr A Sinclair
Level of interest: not specified
Advice on publication: Other (see below)

This was an interesting study which investigated the Lipoprotein Profile in Patients with Vascular Dementia, Alzheimer's Disease, and a group of non demented controls of equivalent age and sex. This was a cross sectional comparison and bearing in mind the parameters that were studied and the relatively small number of patients included in the study, the study is not suitable to take further any hypothesis relating to Lipoproteins and the pathogenesis of dementia. The finding of a low HDL - C is interesting but could easily be interpreted as a risk factor for development of atheroma in the setting of cerebrovascular disease. Therefore this relationship is not unexpected. Several previous authors have also reported this finding. In their conclusions, it is possible to say that low HDL - C levels are associated with vascular dementia in the cross sectional sample, but it is absolutely purely speculative to believe that they may be involved in the exact pathogenesis of the disease process. I regret therefore that this study whilst interesting, does not take us further forward in elucidating Lipoprotein change and the development of cerebrovascular disease.

Competing interests:

None declared.