Reviewer's report

Title: An assessment of the vulnerability of carotid plaques: a comparative study between intraplaque neovascularization and plaque echogenicity

Version: 2 Date: 4 January 2013

Reviewer: Gianluca L Faggioli

Reviewer's report:

I enjoyed reading your manuscript, which describes a clear and well conducted study. However there are few points which deserve clarification.

Methods
• You wrote that carotid stenosis >50% was considered. Which method of quantification and what criteria did you use?
• Why did use two different Duplex system for your CDUS and CEUS analysis? Both of them can be used for either examination.
• You stated that MES were identified on the MCA contralateral to the side of neurologic deficits. Which deficits are you referring to? I see from your tables that some of your patients had neurologic symptoms, but those are not reported nor described in the manuscript.

Discussion
• The first sentence of the last paragraph needs to be rewritten, since it is unclear as is.
• Also, you refer again to stroke patients, but that information is missing in the method section.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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