Reviewer's report

Title: Linkage Study of Fibrinogen Levels: The Strong Heart Family Study

Version: 1 Date: 29 May 2008

Reviewer: Georg Endler

Reviewer's report:

In their study the Authors evaluated novel genetic determinants for fibrinogen levels in cardiovascular high risk group of 3600 American Indian participants. Interestingly the identified hot spots associated with fibrinogen levels near genes associated with blood pressure regulation and inflammatory genes indicating that the observed genetic variation of fibrinogen levels can only partly be explained by genetic variants within the fibrinogen gene as well. The study is concisely written an presents exiting novel aspects in genetic variation of fibrinogen levels. I thus have only some suggestions which might be of interest to the reader.

- Discretionary Revisions

1) There is still some dispute whether fibrinogen merely acts as a risk marker for cardiovascular disease or is causally involved in the pathogenesis of Atherosclerosis. Maybe from the authors would like to speculate on this point in the discussion.

2) For me it would be of interest whether the observed Hot Spots were also linked with cardiovascular disease or hypertension.

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