Reviewer’s report

Title: Increased number of circulating endothelial progenitor cells in stroke patients with intracranial arterial stenosis

Version: 1 Date: 1 August 2013

Reviewer: Adriana Georgescu

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Detailed comments for transmission to the authors,

The present work investigates the correlation between EPC number, fibrinogen levels and atherosclerotic intracranial artery stenosis (IAS).

The idea of the study is interesting, the results are original and of potential interest for a wide readership.

This paper could be published only after the correction of a few drawbacks, as follow:

1. At 'Introduction' section, the authors could mention more recent similar articles regarding the association between EPC number and atherosclerosis disease.

2. The ‘Materials and Methods’ section would benefit of more data about patients such as: age, body weight, sex, plasmatic parameters.

3. At ‘Results’ section, the authors should bring more explanations or data regarding EPC analysis by flow cytometry: it is necessary to distinguish between EPC (+CD34), EPC (+CD133) and EPC (+ KDR) and to give some different percent after flow cytometry analysis.

The authors should explain how measured the EPC levels positive for the three specific markers (CD34/CD133/KDR). Anyway, the percent for EPC (+CD34/ +CD133/ +KDR) is too low.

4. Along of the whole text, the authors should pay attention at ‘EPCs’: it is correct to write EPC levels not EPCs levels. When EPCs appear alone it is correct to write EPCs not EPC.

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

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.