Reviewer's report

Title: Effect of Pre-Stroke Use of ACE Inhibitors On Ischemic Stroke Severity

Version: 1 Date: 17 March 2005

Reviewer: Majaz Moonis

Reviewer's report:

General Well designed and adequately controlled for variations in the demographics and stroke subtypes. The authors took care to take stoke type into consideration since lacunar strokes are likely to be associated with a lower NIHSS as was the case here. However, in this case, the differences were not significant between stroke sub-types.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Can the authors comment about the difference amongst groups between ACEI and non ACEI with respect to moderate stroke (NIHSS 7-14)? It is not clear from the abstract or the results. While the abstract suggests that strokes were categorized as mild, moderate and severe, the methods suggest that the results were dichotomized into mild and severe stroke based on the NIHSS unless the NIHSS was used as a continuous variable. Please clarify.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.