Reviewer's report

Title: The Peripheral Arterial Disease Study (PERART/ARTPER): Prevalence and risk factors in the general population

Version: 1 Date: 13 October 2009

Reviewer: Roberto Miccoli

Reviewer's report:

The aim of the paper was to evaluate the prevalence and risk factors of peripheral arterial disease (PAD) in general population by measurement of ankle-brachial index (ABI). The authors found a low prevalence of PAD with physical activity and overweight negatively associated with this complication.

The paper is not well written. A revision of the English language by a mother tongue expert is needed.

Background

I suggest to modify the sentence as follows.

Line 10.
It is therefore .... will help to better identify subjects at high risk of developing PAD in order to implement preventive measures.

Line 15.
PAD is a common manifestation of atherosclerosis and is characterized by increasing incidence of morbid-mortality.

Line 23.
The ABI index is the most effective tool used to screen for peripheral arterial disease.

Methods

- Please, report methods of evaluation of intermittent claudication.
- It is generally accepted the cutoff value of the ABI >1.3 at which the to define arterial Monckeberg's sclerosis. Please explain your cutoff of 1.4.

Results and discussion

- The authors should discuss the high prevalence of subjects with Monckeberg's sclerosis: the result here reported is higher than previously observed in high risk populations, such as diabetic patients.
- Is the reported prevalence of 10% for intermittent claudication referred to the
whole population?

- Male gender (OR 1.62) is NOT a protective factor for PAD.

- It should be interesting to evaluate if metabolic syndrome per se is a risk factor for PAD independently of other variables.

- Line 10, pag. 8 arterial calcification... to be associated with a greater risk of what?

- Please discuss Risk tables results and PAD.

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

Nothing to declare.
I don’t have any competing interests to declare.