Reviewer’s report

Title: Effects of CPAP on nitrate and norepinephrine in severe and mild/moderate sleep apnea

Version: 3 Date: 16 August 2012

Reviewer: Jose Loredo

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
None

Minor Essential Revisions:
Study population section:
1) Second paragraph: in the exclusion criteria, no need to include 1), 2), 3) etc., for each criterion. Please delete.
2) Last paragraph: in “The study protocol was approved by our institute’s Ethics Committee, replace “our institute” with the name of the institution.

Statistical Analysis Section:
1) Please include a statement such as this in the Statistical Analysis section: “Subjects were stratified by BMI # 30 and BMI < 30 to assess the effects of obesity on NOx and U-NE levels.”

Results section:
1) Before CPAP: After CPAP results are included for excessive sleepiness (1st paragraph) and hypertension (third paragraph) in the before CPAP section which makes the reading confusing. Please move the after CPAP results to the After CPAP section.
2) Second paragraph – Please spell out “ARAs”. Are these Angiotensin II Receptor Antagonists? If so, wouldn’t this violate the set of exclusion criteria provided in the Study Population exclusion criteria section? Please clarify and modify as appropriate. If indeed patients on Angiotensin Receptor Antagonist were included, this could have confounded the results and should be included in the limitations section.
3) Please include a statement such as this in the Results at the end of the Before CPAP section: “The study population was stratified by BMI < 30 and # 30. There was no difference between obese and non obese subjects in NOx and U-NE levels.” No need to show any data.

Conclusion section:
1) Change “improves plasma NOx…” to “Significantly increases plasma NOx levels and reduces 24-h U-NE and BP…”
Discretionary Revisions:
Results section:
1) After CPAP, 3rd paragraph – Consider changing “Evaluation of sympathetic dysfunction” to “Evaluation of sympathetic activity”. Activity better describes what the protocol was measuring. Dysfunction implies a diseased state, therefore a more biased term which should be left for the discussion.

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