Reviewer's report

Title: Acute effects of remote ischemic preconditioning on cutaneous microcirculation - a controlled cross-over trial

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Reviewer: Stewart Walsh

Reviewer's report:

The authors present the results of a prospective study of the effects of RIPC on cutaneous microcirculation in healthy volunteers. It is a potentially useful study but a few points need to be addressed.

Major Compulsory Revisions
This is not a crossover trial. It is a prospective cohort study and should be described as such.

Please include error bars for all datapoints in the figures. This is particularly important for Figure 2, where a significant difference in only 2 data points is used to conclude that post-capillary filling pressure falls after RIPC.

Did the authors consider incorporating a Bonferroni correction for multiple comparisons?

The discussion is very superficial. It largely revisits material already covered in the introduction. The authors should focus on the strengths and weaknesses of their work and its relation to other literature. For example, Hoole et al found no effect of RIPC on myocardial microvascular function. How does their work relate to this? If RIPC has no effect on skeletal muscle microvascular function could it alter its potential utility in flap surgery? Do the authors intend to examine skeletal muscle microvascular function?

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.