Reviewer's report

Title: Brain Natriuretic Peptide Levels are Associated with Peripheral Arterial Disease in Type 2 Diabetic Patients

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Reviewer: Uichi Ikeda

Reviewer's report:

In this study, the authors measured BNP levels in diabetic patients and found that higher BNP levels were significantly associated with a higher prevalence of PAD. The reviewer has following comments.

It has been already reported that PAD patients have higher circulating BNP levels than controls (reference #6-#8). The only original point of this study is that subjects are diabetic. Then, the reviewer advises the authors to do the same analysis in subjects without diabetes, and compared the observed findings between diabetic and non-diabetic subjects.

BNP is secreted predominantly from the ventricular myocardium. The authors described that patients with cardiac systolic and diastolic dysfunction were excluded from the study. What are the criteria of systolic and diastolic dysfunction? Recently, Yamasaki et al. reported that high BNP levels were associated with $E/e\prime$, but not $E/A$, in PAD patients (Angiology 64;540-543, 2013).

Both ABI <0.9 and ABI # 0.9 are used as the cut-off value for PAD diagnosis in the text.

The reviewer found several typographical errors in the text.

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:

I declare that I have no competing interests.