Reviewer's report

Title: Cardiovascular autonomic function tests in an African population: A report on reference values

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Reviewer: Attila Nemes

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Cardiovascular autonomic function tests in an African population: A report on reference values
by Malvin Torsvik et al.
BMC Endocrine Disorders

Torsvik et al. aimed to establish reference values for five easy-to-use cardiovascular autonomic function tests that may be suitable for resource-poor settings.

They have found that the test battery revealed cut-off values different from those measured in Caucasians.

This is interesting. It is a well-written, comparison with previous studies and used statistical analyses are correct.

However, some questions and problems arisen:

1. A separate Limitation section should be created in which some problems should be mentioned including the followings: the patient number is not really high (only 276), so only suggestions in the Conclusion can be given. Especially when different aged mini-populations are compared (from 29 to 71) (see Tables).

2. It is always a problem who is healthy: I personaly miss the consideration of hypercholesterolaemia and other laboratory findings in the statistical evaluations.

3. I think to give reference values from a mixed African population (<300 patients !) are to strong messages !

4. Some typos should be corrected through the text.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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'