Reviewer's report

Title: Graz Endocrine Causes Of Hypertension (GECOH) study: A diagnostic accuracy study of aldosterone to active renin ratio in screening for primary aldosteronism

Version: 2 Date: 3 March 2009

Reviewer: David Warnock

Reviewer's report:

This is a very thorough and detailed study proposal. I offer several suggestions:

a) Perhaps too much emphasis is placed on the saline suppression test. Can the authors put this test into context for subjects who already have a dietary salt intake with > 200 mEq Na already in the 24 hr urine.

b) Primary aldosteronism and resistant hypertension are especially important in patients of African descent; will these subjects be adequately represented in the GECOH cohort?

c) David Calhoun has written extensively about primary aldosteronism and resistant hypertension. His work needs to be cited (Nishizaka, M. K., M. Pratt-Ubunama, M. A. Zaman, S. Cofield and D. A. Calhoun (2005). "Validity of plasma aldosterone-to-renin activity ratio in African American and white subjects with resistant hypertension." Am J Hypertens 18(6): 805-12.)

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'