Reviewer's report

Title: Reproductive factors and its association with intima media thickness and carotid plaques in a cross sectional study of postmenopausal women enrolled in the population-based KORA F4 study

Version: 1 Date: 18 September 2013

Reviewer: enis ozkaya

Reviewer's report:

First # want to thank you for this opportunity,

In this article authors indicate a possible association between some reproductive factors and atherosclerosis determined by carotid plaques and intima media thickness. And authors concluded that the early menarche is associated with the carotid plaques and ever use of hrt is inversely associated with the carotid plaques. However they did not show any association between the variables and the IMT. This is very well designed and written article with appropriate statistical analyses indicating a data which was not assessed before in this perspective. I think most important drawback in this paper is the retrospective design of the study. However authors tried to overcome this problem by the large number of study population they included in the study.

I would suggest publication

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined:Definition of the problem and the hypothesis were well defined.
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?:Methods of data collection, measurements were appropriate.
3. Are the data sound? Gathered data is good enough to draw a conclusion
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? Manuscript is well written
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? Authors have discussed all the issues about the subject.
6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated? The most important drawback of the study was clearly mentioned in discussion section.
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished? Yes, it is clear.
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? yes
9. Is the writing acceptable? Yes it is OK

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests