Reviewer's report

Title: Effect of hawthorn standardized extract on flow mediated dilation in prehypertensive and mildly hypertensive adults: a randomized, controlled cross-over trial

Version: 1 Date: 25 January 2012

Reviewer: Hao Xu

Reviewer's report:

This study investigated the relationship between hawthorn extract dose and brachial artery flow mediated dilation (FMD), an indirect measure of nitric oxide release. The authors found no evidence of a dose-response effect of hawthorn extract on FMD.

This study is a registered clinical trial with rigorous clinical design, sample size estimation and standardized reporting. The results were clinically relevant.

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. One subject was halted due to hearing loss, the authors should tell which group this patient was.

Discretionary Revisions
1. Since the blood pressure lowering and vessel-dilating effect may be more significant in hypertensive patients than in normal blood pressure patients, the results may be more persuasive if including only mildly hypertensive patients.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests