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: 27 January 2012

Reviewer: Suzanna Zick

Reviewer's report:

These are minor essential revisions

P. 5, 2nd paragraph: Please, provide more information about the hawthorn product. It would be sufficient to indicate the extraction solvents, e.g., alcohol and water and the ratio between plant and solvent e.g., 10:1 ratio. The manuscript also indicates that the whole hawthorn plant was used. What does this mean, e.g., flower, leaves, fruit bark etc.? Also, was the amount of OPC in the HSE independently checked at any point during the study?

Discretionary Revisions

I liked the part in the discussion indicating that hawthorn may need to be administered with other plants/medications rich in nitrate. It would be lovely if the authors could also discuss how hawthorn is used botanically for HTN only with other herbs. It would be interesting if the other herbs often used with hawthorn are high in nitrate.

Is it possible that the NO mechanism may still be valid in people with much higher blood pressures as compared to those with relatively normal blood pressures?

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'