Reviewer's report

Title: Cocoa intake and arterial stiffness in subjects with cardiovascular risk factors.

Version: 5 Date: 24 November 2011

Reviewer: Kimon Stamatelopoulos

Reviewer's report:

Despite significant recognizable efforts from the authors to improve the manuscript there are still important flaws. The 3 groups are still not comparable since they are very heterogenous (significant differences in age, gender and vasoactive drugs) in regard to factors not associated with cocoa effects. Plus the statistical comparisons are underpowered for correct interpretation of negative results. Furthermore, the multivariate comparisons which are vital for this kind of study are not shown in detail. Finally, in the table showing results without diabetics, cannot be correct because the number of patients is the same as before. For example in group 1 there should be 98-58=40 subjects w/o dm while their number is still 98 and this is also confirmed by the depicted prevalences in other risk factors (eg hypertension 78(79%).

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.