Reviewer’s report

Title: Is there a role of statins in the prevention of aortic biological prostheses degeneration?

Version: 1 Date: 16 December 2005

Reviewer: emilio pasanisi

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Reviewer 1’s report

A very well written, interesting, balanced, and timely review developing an original concept of the potential role of statins in the prevention of aortic biologic prosthesis degeneration. There are only minor comments:

1. The authors should quote two papers about the similarities between aortic valve disease and atherosclerosis (Poggianti et al JACC. 2003 Jan 1;4:136-41, and Mazzone et al. JACC 2004; (43):1670-1676)
2. Figure 1 is a Table.
3. In Table 1, maybe you want to add whether the study was prospective or retrospective, and randomized or non-randomized (maybe you can delete the diabetes/hypertension information, which is less important). To favour readability, you can also add in the last column the reference number of the study in the present article.
4. Legend of figure 2 is missing.
5. Among possible mechanisms, you may wish to comment on the contribution of cells of primarily extravascular origin in degenerative aortic bioprostheses (Skowasch D et al, Eur Heart J , December 2005, 2576 – 2580) – and the potential role of statins on this mechanism
7. Page 3, last para: proprieties is properties.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

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