Reviewer's report

Title: Standardized Ultrasound Evaluation of Carotid Stenosis for Clinical Trials: University of Washington Ultrasound Reading Center

Version: 1 Date: 16 August 2010

Reviewer: Rosa Sicari

Reviewer's report:

This is a timing manuscript coming form an outstanding group in vascular ultrasounds. Vascular ultrasound as any other ultrasound technique may be endangered in its clinical use for the lack of a standardization procedure. Authors propose an algorithm based their clinical experience. Core lab central reading remains critical when using ultrasound in clinical trials. The manuscript is well written, the discussion vs. the 2002 consensus document is fair. The figures are beautiful. This reviewer would only separate the clinical vs. the research use of vascular ultrasounds.

Please also propose a practical algorithm for patient evaluation.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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'