Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Systemic Vascular Function, Measured with Forearm Flow Mediated Dilatation, in Acute and Stable Cerebrovascular Disease: a Case-Control Study

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 27 August 2010

**Reviewer:** Rosa Sicari

**Reviewer’s report:**

This is an interesting study demonstrating that endothelial function does not differ between acute of chronic patients with stroke/TIA. However, there are several issues that authors should address:

1. Include more data/results in the abstract session of the manuscript.
2. Please clarify in the methods section of the manuscript if patients underwent brain imaging to support diagnosis.
3. The case-control study is correct, however a real normal study group would strengthen the results. Please provide data you available. Otherwise acknowledge the reason why the comparison has been made between these 2 groups (acute and chronic) and why they should be different.
4. The major limitation of the study is related to the lack of an operator-independent and automatic system of measurement of FMD. This limitation makes the results weak due to the high inter and intra-observer variability. This should be acknowledged in the discussion section of the manuscript.
5. In the results section of the manuscript 18 patients are the study population where the actual population is of 17. This is a little confusing.
6. Medical therapy at time of FDM evaluation may modulate the response. Due to the high risk patient population provide data on the possible effect of medical therapy.
7. Due to the nature of the journal images should be uploaded with sample cases.
8. You may be interested in citing Takase et al. Endothelial dysfunction, carotid artery plaque burden, and conventional exercise-induced myocardial ischemia as predictors of coronary artery disease prognosis Cardiovascular Ultrasound 2008, 6:61

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'