Reviewer's report

Title: Outcome of Coronary Plaque Burden: A 10-year follow-up of Aggressive Medical Management.

Version: 1 Date: 20 September 2009

Reviewer: Rosa Sicari

Reviewer's report:

In the present study authors demonstrate that aggressive treatment of risk factors and life style changes reduce the development of CAD as shown by CAC assessment by CT scan.

The study is interesting but there are several issues that authors should address:

1. Please report the pre-test probability according to Diamond and Forrest.
2. The population under investigation should be separated in class of age and relate them to the Agatson score
3. On pg. 5 authors state that the overall dose given per exam is as low as 1 mSv. The dose seems to be too low, due to several factors, including the one that they were not using a new model of scanner. Please address.
4. In line with previous comment authors should give a word of caution in the use of CT scan as a screening tool due to the high radiation burden (Brenner et al. NEJM 2008)
5. Please give details on how authors assessed the life-style changes in the population under investigation.
6. Please provide a flow chart in order to better see how the population under investigation was selected
7. Please provide intra and inter-observer variability on CT scan studies
8. Delete table 3.
9. The number of patients that showed a regression trend is very small. Please provide more details on this subset of patients
10. Delete figure 2 since it is not very what authors are showing
11. Please provide data on dosage of statins.
12. This is a low risk set of patients, with non obstructive CAD. The lack of events in the follow-up is not surprising. Please address.
13. Authors should add a paragraph addressing the clinical implications of the study.

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'