Reviewer's report

Title: Assessment of Endothelial Function by Brachial Artery Flow Mediated Dilatation in Cardiac Syndrome X Patients

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Reviewer: Rosa Sicari

Reviewer's report:

In the present manuscript authors relate endothelial function to syndrome X. They conclude that patients with syndrome X have a higher prevalence of endothelial dysfunction when compared to normal controls. The subject although not very original, since there are many publications relative to the same clinical condition may be of potential interest. However, there are several important limitations that authors should address.

1. Abstract: no conclusion paragraph has been prepared.
2. It is not clear how the two groups were selected: please detail how the diagnosis of syndrome X was done (no coronary angiography has been performed in the subjects under investigation, apparently). How was the control group selected. Were these healthy volunteers?
3. In line with the previous comment use the conventional definition of syndrome X as described by Maseri and Crea.
4. Endothelial function was not assessed with an automatic system. This is a major flaw in the methodology, since the measurement of endothelial variations has a very high variability due to the very small differences an automatic system, totally operator-independent is mandatory. Please address.
5. The results section of the manuscript is very poor. However, many of the results are actually reported in the discussion section of the manuscript.
6. Please address, in the discussion section , the clinical implications of the present results.
7. The list of references is not appropriate. Please check the studies from Crea et al. Moreover, most of authors' names are properly reported. Please follow the rules of the journal for references
8. There are several typos throughout the manuscript.
9. Due to the nature of the journal you should upload images with sample cases.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests’