Reviewer's report

Title: Increased plasma endoglin levels as an indicator of cardiovascular alterations in hypertensive and diabetic patients

Version: 1 Date: 17 October 2010

Reviewer: Michael Shechter

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. What was the exact definition of "healthy"? The inclusion/exclusion criteria should be more comprehensive. How where the patients enrolled in the study? What were the criteria for "diabetes", "hypertension"? This should be clarified in the "Methods" section.

2. No data is provided regarding baseline characteristics which could impact the endothelial function results, such as concomitant medications in all the groups (including the "healthy" controls, time of the day when the endothelial function were assessed, fasting blood glucose (also in the control group), white blood cell count, etc. In addition physical examination parameters such as blood pressure, heart rate, body temperature, body mass index, etc. which could potentially impact the endothelial function results.

3. The endothelial function assessment using in this study needs a better clarification. At what time after/before blood withdrawn? Who performed the endothelial function tests? Was the operator blinded to the patients' clinical data?

4. What was the power calculation for this project?

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests