Reviewer’s report

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

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Reviewer: S. Ananth S. Karumanchi

Reviewer’s report:

This paper evaluates the role of soluble endoglin as a biomaker for cardiovascular alterations. I have the following comments for the authors to consider.

1. Plasma endoglin should be changed to plasma soluble endoglin. Endoglin is a cell surface protein and is not present in plasma. Only the soluble form is present in the circulation.

2. Strength of association for soluble endoglin levels (for example in retinopathy) could be tested for example with an odds ratio so the findings presented are more meaningful to clinicians.

3. What about relationship between soluble endoglin and renal dysfunction?

4. In the discussion, a discussion on cardiovascular disease amongst patients with HHT would be nice. In patients, with HHT where they have one allele of endoglin mutated, the soluble endoglin levels would theoretically be low - what is known about cardiovascular disease and retinopathy in this population.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

This reviewer is a co-inventor on patents related to soluble endoglin in preeclampsia. However, this is not applicable to the subject matter of this paper.