Reviewer's report

**Title:** Detection of silent myocardial ischemia in asymptomatic diabetic patients: results of a randomized trial and meta-analysis assessing the effectiveness of systematic screening

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 2 December 2010

**Reviewer:** Sheryl Kelsey

**Reviewer's report:**

This is a well written paper describing the results of an important clinical trial. It is important to publish information about trials that stopped early even though statistical power is low. It is ironic that recruitment was poor due to the clinicians thinking they already knew the answer. Additional data would likely have proved them wrong. Guess they didn't want to hear that. Even given the lack of statistical power, it would appear that the less expensive strategy is no worse.

Major compulsory revisions: none.

Well written paper on an important topic.

**Minor essential revisions**

1. ‘Diabetic’ to refer to a person is politically incorrect. Better to say ‘males and females with diabetes’ or ‘patient with diabetes’

2. Results of the silent ischemia test are noted to be ‘positive or doubtful.’ Doubtful should be defined and it should be explained why doubtful is combined with positive. Is there a better word? Does doubtful mean probably, but not definitely positive?

3. Page 5, line 3, under Procedures, a ‘to’ is needed before ‘current guidelines’

4. Page 12, line 4, ‘noticing’ should be ‘notifying’

5. Page 12, line 7, ‘They are’ instead of ‘it is’

6. Table 1 - Title should be ‘Baseline patient characteristics by intervention group’

7. Table 2 - Title should be ‘Outcome by intervention group’

8. Labeling of figure 3 does not mention which is the reference group for RR’s

**Discretionary revisions**

9. Perhaps the terms ‘intervention’ and ‘control’ are part of the protocol to label the groups, but something like ‘screened for ischemia’ and ‘usual care’(or watchful waiting) would be more descriptive.

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field
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