Reviewer's report

Title: Reconsidering low dose aspirin therapy for cardiovascular disease: an integrative approach study protocol

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Reviewer: Giorgia De Berardis

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The manuscript describe the protocol of a trial that will evaluate the effectiveness of three different strategies aimed to change physician behavior regarding prescription of low-dose aspirin for primary prevention of cardiovascular disease. The issue of the trial is very up-to-date after the publication of the results of the last meta-analyses and trial regarding low-dose aspirin.

I have only some concerns about the description of the adopted procedures.

Major compulsory revisions

1. Title: The title of the manuscript should better specify the aim of the study: it is not clear that the trial is focused on a physicians’ behavior change interventions; furthermore, terms like "study protocol" should be included.

2. Design and Methods, Design, description of intervention arms: details about academic detailing should be provided. What type of documentation will be given to participating physicians?

3. Design and Methods, Data Analysis Approach: the Authors reported the description of the statistical analyses that will be performed; however more details about “patient clinical covariates” that will be taken into account in the logistic regression analyses are needed. Furthermore, will physicians’ characteristics (age, gender, specialty) be collected?

Minor essential revisions

1. Abstract, Methods paragraph: the first sentence of the paragraph should be moved to the end of the Background paragraph to explain the aim of the study. The three interventional strategies should be specified as well as the duration of the trial.

2. Design and Methods, Design, first paragraph: randomization procedure is not adequately described. Will the practices or eligible patients be randomized to one of the three arms? This aspect is perhaps inferable from the figure, but a brief description could be more informative.

3. Design and Methods, Participants: more details about inclusion and exclusion criteria should be reported (i.e age limit, ASA dosage,…).

4. Design and Methods, Participants, last paragraph: The sample size description should be completed with the statistical power with which the study could detect a 7% difference between two groups.
5. Design and Methods, Design: the duration of the trial should be reported after the description of the outcome of the study.

6. Design and Methods, Data Analysis Approach: information on secondary analyses on diabetes subgroup should be mentioned.

7. Design and Methods, Human Subject Protection: Use of waiver of consent for all eligible patients should be reported in the manuscript.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests