Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence and Factors Associated with Inappropriate Use of Treadmill Test for Coronary Artery Disease: A Cross-Sectional Study

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Reviewer: Bredy Pierre-Louis

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MANUSCRIPT:
Prevalence and Factors Associated with Inappropriate Use of Treadmill Test for Coronary Artery Disease: A Cross-Sectional Study
Antônio M.L. Silva, Anderson C Armstrong, Fernando J.C. Silveira, Marcelo C Cavalcanti, Fernando M.F. França and Luis C.L. Correia
BMC Cardiovascular Disorders

Research article: This is an important article that addresses a growing concern in the cardiovascular community regarding inappropriateness diagnostic evaluations and the potential clinical and financial adverse outcomes associated with those decisions. Of particular interest is the focus on the challenges facing developing countries as they try and balance the realities of providing quality care with limited resources.

Discretionary Revisions:
The authors should consider a more expanded discussion of the particular challenges facing Brazil and the specific community they study with regard to the resources of the healthcare system relative to the disease burden—provide incidence and prevalence of CAD in Brazil with associated morbidity and mortality data, current financial expenditure, and a brief discussion on risk factor prevalence and resources allocated for CVD prevention.

In addition a more detailed description and comparison of the public and private healthcare systems in the discussion section would be helpful to better delineate why this is the only independent risk factor for inappropriate testing—financial incentives, patient demands.

Minor Essential Revisions:
The paper is well written, however there are a few areas to consider better wording and improved grammar. Editing with a focus solely on grammar and vocabulary selection would be helpful, though again this does not detract from the quality of the paper.

Some examples:

Background line 83: Evidences have = Evidence has
Refer to treadmill test as treadmill exercise stress test
Use the term “diagnostic evaluations” in place of tests and exams sometimes
Very minor revision-change comma (,) in tables to decimal points (.)
Provide detailed references and evidence for the appropriateness criteria for CAD evaluation by treadmill exercise stress testing based on ACC/AHA established guidelines and provide the specifics of the low
Include a detailed discussion of the limitations of the paper including small sample size, specific community in terms of geography and ethnicity
It is not clear why a single regression analysis was not conducted to determine the independent variables related to inappropriate use treadmill exercise stress test-explain in detail the advantages of the statistical models used-eg. greater precision, reduced errors, better for smaller sample sizes

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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