**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** The Association of Religious Affiliation with Cholesterol Levels among South Asians: The Mediators of Atherosclerosis in South Asians Living in America Study

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 06 Jan 2019

**Reviewer:** Aleksander Prejbisz

**Reviewer's report:**

There are some major limitations which should be commented by authors:

1. The number of subjects within religious affiliations other than Hinduis/Jainism are low. These should be discussed and mentioned in the limitations.

2. The authors should also take into consideration that higher HDL levels in some groups might be related not to higher alcohol consumption in those groups but also to higher physical activity.

3. The observed differences in LDL levels are not pronounced, not exceeding 10 mg/dL, the same in HDL levels - not exceeding 4 mg/dL. Are these differences of clinical importance? Also only the differences between Muslims and no religious affiliation reached the statistical significance.

4. Only the conclusion "Muslims had higher LDL and triglyceride levels, and lower HDL levels, while participants with no religious affiliation had lower LDL levels and higher HDL levels." is supported by the data but not the major conclusion drawn by the authors "In conclusion, our results suggest that religion is associated with cholesterol levels in South Asians, and that some lifestyle behaviors may partially explain this risk."
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
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Acceptable

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