Reviewer’s report

Title: Shear stress improves the Endothelial Progenitor Cell function via the CXCR7/ERK pathway axis in the Coronary Artery Disease cases

Version: 2 Date: 23 Apr 2020

Reviewer: Aldo Bonaventura

Reviewer's report:

The paper deals with an interesting topic, but contains a lot of methodological flaws, which negatively impact on the content.
All my concerns are summarized below.

Major points
- I would recommend authors to summarize general information on methods rather than refer readers to Supplementary material to read all this part, which is important to understand the paper. You may just summarize some essential elements and then discuss them in the Supplementary material, as you did.
- Methods. Why did you choose only male patients? This imbalances the cohort and influences the result. It looks like a major flaw, females must be included.
- Methods. Why did you exclude patients with hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular events, or additional cardiovascular risk factors? It's not easy to understand as patients with CAD usually suffer from other CV diseases/CV risk factors, especially hypertension and diabetes. This is a major flaw not reflecting the reality of patients with CAD. Do you really believe that patients with CAD are otherwise healthy?
- Statistical analysis section is really vague and must be further discussed.

Minor points
- Introduction may be a little summarized and limited to a single page, just providing the pertinent information for readers to understand the topic of the paper. Please consider to discuss the role of diabetes in determining endothelial dysfunction (see for example Eur Heart J. 2013 Aug;34(31):2436-43; Curr Pharm Des. 2019;25(29):3112-3127; World J Diabetes. 2015 Mar 15;6(2):326-32).
- English editing is absolutely needed.

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.
No

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
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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