Reviewer’s report

Title: Elevated Circulating Vascular Cell Adhesion Molecule-1 (sVCAM-1) Is Associated With Concurrent Depressive Symptoms and Cerebral White Matter Hyperintensities in Older Adults.

Version: 2 Date: 17 March 2015

Reviewer: Jukka Jolkkonen

Reviewer’s report:

This is a short paper describing possible association between blood VCAM-1 and depressive symptoms in the elderly people. White matter changes were studied in a subgroup of participants. The results suggest that endothelial dysfunction is indeed related to depressive symptoms. I have the following minor comments and concerns:

1. The Authors shortly present the hypothesis that late-life depression might be due to cerebrovascular disease. The examples given, however, show just causal relationships.

2. Please explain how the participants were selected for MRI study.

3. The correlation between VCAM (and ICAM) and depressive score was weak. Did the Authors measure any other markers?

4. The sentence in the line 244 is incomplete.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.