Reviewer’s report

Title: A cross-sectional study on peripheral arterial disease in Sri Lanka: prevalence and associated factors

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Reviewer: Viswanathan V Mohan

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Weragoda et al have done a study to estimate the prevalence of PAD among adults aged 40–74 years in a sample of 2912 subjects. There are several issues with the manuscript which need to be addressed.

Comments

Major compulsory revisions

1. The title of the study suggests that the study is done on the whole Sriankan population. In reality, it was carried out only in the Gampaha District population. The title should be modified appropriately to reflect this. Also in the Discussion first line, this should be clarified.

2. It is mentioned that the sample of 2912 subjects was derived from 104 clusters using multistage probability proportionate to size sampling. What was the original size of these clusters? How were 2912 subjects selected from the original sample?. These details should be presented in the form of a flow chart.

3. How was the sample size of 2912 determined? Was any sample size calculation done for the study? If so details about the same should be mentioned in the methodology section.

4. The subjects with peripheral arterial disease could further be classified according to Rutherford classification as asymptomatic, mild, moderate and severe claudication, Rest pain, minor and major tissue loss

5. Table 4 shows the smoking pattern of the male subjects. It is mentioned in the methodology that alcohol consumption was also assessed. However, no results about the pattern of alcohol consumption are provided. These should be included.

6. Table 5: The number of participants in the group with No PAD is given as n=54 28 while the total number of study participants were only 2912. This discrepancy should be clarified or corrected.

7. Errors in terminology like ‘hypertension mellitus’ (Table 6) should be corrected

8. Table 6: It is a well known fact that the presence of hypertension, diabetes mellitus and Myocardial infarction increase the odds of PAD. However, the extents of the as shown by odds ratios or beta co-efficients are not provided in the table.
Minor essential revisions

9. Some of the simple clinical parameters like BMI, Blood pressure etc should have included.

10. It is evident from Table 3 that more than 70% of subjects have diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidemia and more than 10% had CAD and cerebrovascular disease. Were the medication details collected for the subjects with PAD? It would be interesting to look at the association of medication intake with PAD.

11. In the list references, is just first author followed by et al sufficient? Please check the references style.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

No conflict of interest to disclose