Reviewer’s report

Title: Treatment of vascular risk factors in patients with a diagnosis of Alzheimer Disease

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Reviewer: Amos Korczyn

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This paper addresses an important question, i.e. whether treatment of VRF would modify the course of AD. Not surprisingly, the meta-analysis failed to substantiate the utility of such treatment. This is not surprising since to demonstrate an effect a placebo arm needs to be included, and the study should be long, and thus will be unethical in patients having VRF.

Secondly, as the authors mention, even had such an effect been discovered, it would not necessarily prove an anti-AD effect rather than that on vascular brain disease comorbidity.

Paradoxically, such treatment could increase the number of demented individuals since it would reduce cardiovascular mortality. This will give AD patients longer life expectancy, allowing them to develop dementia unassociated with vascular causes.

And in the end, practically it does not matter, whether treatment of VRF changes the course of AD, since patients should be treated for VRF regardless of an effect on dementia.

Minor points: Add the word "meta-analysis" to the title of the paper.


Quality of written English: Acceptable

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