Reviewer's report

Title: Anti-inflammatory and Morphologic Effects of Pitavastatin on Carotid Arteries and Thoracic Aorta Evaluated by Integrated Backscatter Trans-esophageal Ultrasound and PET/CT: A Prospective Randomized Comparative Study with Pravastatin (EPICENTRE study)

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Reviewer: Lorenza Pratali

Reviewer's report:

Watanabe et al had two different purposes in this study: 1) to evaluate the effect of a lipophilic statin on thoracic aorta and carotid plaques assessed by TEE-IBS and carotid US IBS respectively (components and morphology) and plaque inflammation assessed by 18F-FDG PET; 2) to compare the effect of pivastatin (2 mg) vs pravastatin (10 mg).

This study showed some flaws: surely the low number of subjects enrolled, as underlined by the authors themselves, but also the choice of the different statin dosage. In this study the authors decided to compare a moderate intensity dosage (Pitavastatin 2 mg) vs a low intensity (Pravastatin 10 mg) (ref: 2103 ACC/AHA guidelines on the treatment of blood cholesterol to reduce atherosclerotic cardiovascular risk in adults Stone NJ et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2014). As showed by the results of this study the effects on the lipid profile was certainly more efficacy for Pivastatin than for Pravastatin (table 2). Could be different the results of this study with higher pravastatin dosage?

Minor revisions
1) The use of carotid artery method was not specify in the purpose of the study (page 5)
2) Fig 1 first figure on the left Y abscise Changes instead Cchages

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests