Reviewer's report

Title: Willis-Ekbom Disease Is not Associated With Poor Cardiovascular Health in Elderly Persons

Version: 2 Date: 10 September 2015

Reviewer: Christopher Earley

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-designed study utilizing a population (native American) that has not been previously studied for the prevalence of RLS and thus a strength of the study. The use of the highly sensitive but less specific 4-diagnostic-question questionnaire followed by a face-to-face evaluation of RLS is one of the strengths of this study. Despite provide “negative” results this is still very important paper as it provides the first reliable prevalence data of RLS in native American population.

Major Compulsory Revision: None

Minor Essential Revisions:

This is a well-written paper and the only small comment is in Statistical Analysis. The sentence, “When evaluated with univariate analyses, BMI was significantly associated with WED”. The authors are reporting a result, which does not belong in a Methods section. The methods should state something to the effect, “if a variable is found associated with RLS then we will perform X or Z analysis, etc, etc.....

Discretionary Revisions:

As regards the Discussion, a point worth emphasizing in the Discussion is that the positive predictive value of RLS diagnostic questionnaire that have only 3 or 4 basic questions is likely to be less than 50% when used in a general population (Hening et al Sleep Med 2009) and that is borne out in this study when comparing the 4-question screening to the face-to-face assessment. The relevance of this fact is that most of the epidemiological data associating RLS and CVD is based on only 3-4 questions.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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