Reviewer’s report

Title: Previous chronic cerebral infarction is predictive for new cerebral ischemia after carotid endarterectomy

Version: Date: 30 July 2015

Reviewer: Gert Jan de Borst

Reviewer’s report:

THE present research question is not new, but is part of ongoing analyses on THE relationele between cerebrale white matter lesions and future outcome.

1. THE present series represents A heterogenous population including mixed symptomatic and Asymptomatic patients as well as A large part of patients also needing CABG. Why not A more homogenous population?

2. Most studies on white matter lesions use 3T MRI . Why did THE authors use 1.5 T?

3. Possibly, more lesions Will be scored with THE postoperative scan being performed after three days instead of within 48 hrs. Please discuss.

4. Introduction. Ref 6 is not appropriate. Better look for example at Huibers et al EJVES 2015 PMID 26160210

5. Discussion is too lengthy.

6. THE conclusions should be weakened due to heterogenous and SMALL population. Please adjust.

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:

No conflict of interest