

Reviewer's report

Title: Reversibility of stress-induced ST-segment depression by long-term oral n-3 PUFA supplementation in subjects with chest pain syndrome, normal stress-echo and normal coronary angiogram.

Version: 2 Date: 22 January 2004

Reviewer: John Ludbrook

Reviewer's report:

1. Quite sensibly, in view of the very small sample, the authors did not undertake formal statistical analysis of their findings.
2. The Reviewers were concerned about the small sample size ($n = 9$). Since this was intended to be a pilot study to see whether a formal clinical trial was warranted, I don't have too much trouble with this.
3. A formal, prospective, randomized trial (Placebo v. PUFA) would require >10 subjects in each group. Probably a good deal more, to allow the identification of important predictive covariables, such as age, sex, hypertension, diabetes, etc.
4. It is not my brief, but I cannot resist commenting on non-statistical matters. Your two Reviewers identify some, but not all, the flaws. It seems to me that:
(a) The MS is far too long for a pilot study; in particular, the Introduction. (b) Methods are given in Introduction and again under Methods.
5. I suggest the authors be invited to make radical changes in their MS, along the lines suggested by your two principal Reviewers and me, and re-submit. I would be happy to re-review it.

Declaration of competing interests:

None