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315-321 Lockhart Road,  
Wan Chai, Hong Kong, China

## ESPS Peer-review Report

**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Cardiology

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 8378

**Title:** Metabolic, Autonomic, and Immune Mechanisms of Cardiovascular Disease Risk in Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

**Reviewer code:** 00068809

**Science editor:** Gou, Su-Xin

**Date sent for review:** 2013-12-28 13:55

**Date reviewed:** 2013-12-28 14:49

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This review focuses on metabolic, autonomic, and immune mechanisms of cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk in posttraumatic stress disorder(PTSD). The relationship between CVD and PTSD has arouse great interest in recent years. There have also been some reviews published on this topic. But this manuscript is different from those articles, as it just focuses on those 3 aspects. This manuscript is well written and organized. No significant change is needed. I'd like to recommend it to be accepted for publication.



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### ESPS Peer-review Report

**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Cardiology

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 8378

**Title:** Metabolic, Autonomic, and Immune Mechanisms of Cardiovascular Disease Risk in Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

**Reviewer code:** 00060192

**Science editor:** Gou, Su-Xin

**Date sent for review:** 2013-12-28 13:55

**Date reviewed:** 2014-01-10 17:06

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors have written an excellent article on recent advances in research on mechanisms that increase cardiovascular risk in post-traumatic stress disorder.



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## ESPS Peer-review Report

**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Cardiology

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 8378

**Title:** Metabolic, Autonomic, and Immune Mechanisms of Cardiovascular Disease Risk in Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

**Reviewer code:** 00506014

**Science editor:** Gou, Su-Xin

**Date sent for review:** 2013-12-28 13:55

**Date reviewed:** 2014-01-13 21:58

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Overview: This is a review article examining factors of cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk in individuals with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The authors discussed the influence of PTSD on metabolic syndrome, blood pressure, autonomic reactivity, and immune functioning, resulting in CVD. The paper is reasonably well written, and easy to read. However, there are still some concerns need to be addressed which are presented below: General comments: There are three major concerns with this paper: 1. As this is a review article to discuss PTSD, the authors should introduce the characteristics of PTSD in more details, including history, incidence, diagnostic criteria, course, and clinical presentation, to readers in the paper. 2. Some PTSD-related risk factors which may result in CVD, such as cellular processes, neurosteroids, oxidative stress, and etc., should be included in the paper in order to make this review more informative. 3. As some mechanisms of CVD risk in PTSD are still uncertain, the authors should describe the CVD-associated risk factors for PTSD as positive correlation, negative correlation, or equivocal in the conclusion part of their manuscript. Specific comments: 1. Page 2, Introduction: The introduction for PTSD is too brief. Some information about PTSD, such as history, incidence, diagnostic criteria, course, and etc., should be described in this section. 2. Page 2, line 13: This paper did not discuss physical activity habits (ref 15-17) in PTSD. The authors could use “metabolic” instead of “behavioral” in this sentence to conform to the topic of this manuscript. 3. Page2, line 27: The full spelling of BMI should be defined at first mention. 4. Page 3, line 9-11: The sentence of “Metabolic syndrome criteria included.....” is the same as the sentence in line 4-5. May consider to delete it. 5. Page3, Metabolic Syndrome and PTSD: Some PTSD-related cellular dysfunction arising from stress-induced dysregulation of telomere/telomerase maintenance,



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mitochondria, and endoplasmic reticular stress may result in metabolic syndrome. These issues should be addressed in this section. 6. Page 3, line 28: The results of ref. 37 showed that PTSD patients were not significantly different from control subjects on BP. That is different from the mention of this sentence, please correct it. 7. Page 5, line 14-17: The sentence could be revised as “The observation that the rate of hypertension between the PTSD no depression group and the PTSD plus depression group (13.9%) was no significant difference, suggested that...” to make it more sensible. 8. Page 5, line 17-18: The results from the previous studies are hardly to support the interpretation that higher BP among combat veterans with PTSD may generalize to civilians. Please delete or rewrite this sentence. 9. Page 6, line 14: The discussion about neuroendocrine activation, including glucocorticoids, neurosteroids, sympathetic arousal, and neuropeptide Y, should be placed in the section of Autonomic Reactivity and PTSD. 10. Page 8, Conclusions: In the conclusion section, the influence of the CVD-associated risk factors discussed in this manuscript on PTSD should be well defined as positive correlation, negative correlation, or equivocal. These conclusions could be presented by a Table.