Reviewer's report

Title: Local Erythropoietin and Endothelial Progenitor Cells Improve Regional Cardiac Function in Acute Myocardial Infarction

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Reviewer: B.D. Westenbrink

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The study by Stein et al is interesting, novel and timely. Using in vitro and two in vivo models, they show that EPO improves survival in the heart of ex-vivo expanded EPC's and that this improved myocardial performance after MI, more so than EPO or EPC's alone. This combined aproach is proposed to improve the dissapointing clincical results of these individual techniques.

Major drawback is the use of nude mice and poorly defined cells, but overall this is an interesting study that should be published. I have no specific comments for this study.