Reviewer’s report

Title: Association of Cardiac and Renal Index with Extreme N-terminal Fragment Pro-B-Type Natriuretic Peptide Levels in Elderly Patients

Version: 1 Date: 19 April 2012

Reviewer: Vladimir Jakovljevic

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Cui et al investigated very interesting topic regarding role of N-terminal Fragment Pro-B-Type Natriuretic Peptide Levels in Elderly Patients and his association with cardiac and renal Index. The authors analyzed the data of demographic, clinical, and echocardiographic features on 152 consecutive elderly patients aged more than 80 years old with NT-proBNP levels > 3000 pg/ml, divided in two subgroups: 1) NT-proBNP levels between 3000-10000 pg/mL and (2) NT-proBNP levels > 10000 pg/mL. On the basis of presented data, the authors concluded that the extreme elevation of NT-proBNP levels (> 3000 pg/ml) is mainly determined by impaired renal function in elderly patients above 80 years. Extreme NT-proBNP levels may be useful for the assessment of the severity of impaired renal function.

Study is well designed and based on serious literature data. The number of patients is adequate for valid conclusions. Results are clearly reported and discussion supported findings in the study.

I have only few suggestions:

1) In the abstract is one, but important spelling mistake. Paragraph Methods, line 16, it should be 1000 pg/ml instead 1000/ml.

2) I friendly suggest to authors that can take a look and cited one article published recently in AJPP (article attached) in order to support part of discussion about association of NT-pro-BNP and heart failure.

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.