Reviewer's report

Title: Echocardiographic Evaluation of Thalassemia Intermedia Patients in Duhok, Iraq

Version: 4 Date: 29 July 2014

Reviewer: Dimitrios Tsiapras

Reviewer's report:

The paper is improved in this version. The status of TI patient in a specific region is described and data given are according to the available literature.

Major Revisions:

a. As in the summary conclusion is written that "cardiac complications are common" while it is only a minority in the whole patient group it has to be shown that these complications are majority in the older patients. So an additional description have to be included in the methods and result section (or even table) to show the incidence of high TVR and clinical data according to patients age. I think that this will clearly show that in higher age patient group these findings are really majority.

b. Statistical review has to be performed. I wonder how the SD in some parameters (eg TAPSE) is much more higher than the mean value.

c. In the methods section has to be described how and why the pulonary regurgitation velocity was measured

Minor revisions:

a. A reference has to support the methodology of measurements (line 86-88) and the TVR group identification (line99)

b. line 122. skip "significantly associated" as no statistical correlation has been performed.

c. line 134-37 The sentence is better to be written in the opposite way (eg pts with higher TRV presented with ....)

d. line 140. SOME OF TI have an exceptional ....

e. line 197-199 TRV are not the correct initials, perhaps estimated RVSP is what the authors imply.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the
statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

No conflict of interest