Reviewer's report

Title: Predictors of positive response to cardiac resynchronization therapy

Version: 1 Date: 11 March 2014

Reviewer: Germanas GM Marinskis

Reviewer's report:

Major revisions necessary:

--- Page 3 ---
Conclusions in the abstract and at the end of the paper differ. The former is too short – what kind of etiology is meant? Would be better to make both variants the same (longer).

--- Page 4 ---
The diagnosis of ischaemic cardiomyopathy is detalized. What about other etiologies? – they are not even listed.

Were there CRT-D or CRT-P devices implanted? Not much relevant to the topic, but should be specified.

Was posterolateral LV electrode (lead) position achievable in all patients? To the same percentage in responders and non-responders? “Whenever possible” is not exact enough, because response or non-response may well depend on the LV lead position.

--- Page 5 ---
What about concordance of the lead position to the latest activation? Narrowest QRS complex or other criteria? Any guidance during the procedure electrocardiographic or echocardiographic?

Second paragraph of the Results section: Improvement was not achieved in all pts, but this paragraph seemingly states so.

Were there deaths in both responder and non-responder groups? Any difference?

--- Page 6 ---
It is unlikely that in both responders and non-responders group QRS shortened to the same extent. QRS width deserves analysis and more detailed mentioning.

--- Page 7 ---
The next sentence is questionable: By no means, further studies are needed…

Minor essential revisions:
1st, 2nd lines of the Results paragraph: two decimal digits in the fractional part of numbers seem too much for the percentage. This remark is applicable also to the other instances throughout the paper.

**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:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

no competing interests