Reviewer's report

Title: One Year Follow-up of Patients with Refractory Angina Pectoris Treated with Enhanced External Counterpulsation

Version: 1 Date: 13 February 2006

Reviewer: Elizabeth D Kennard

Reviewer's report:

General
This report on the effects of EECP on refractory angina pectoris is the first published data on a clinical series from a European Center, and confirms previous findings reported in many publications for the US. Thus although the numbers of patients reported is rather low, it is important for these confirmatory findings to be published

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

The English is lacking and the manuscript should be looked at by someone who speaks English.
1) A statement should be made in the design section that the patients were consecutively treated patients and not picked by some unknown criteria.
2) Need a statement concerning whether the 17% of patients who did not complete the treatment were included in the follow-up results.
3) in the Results section para 3. 'forward heart failure' is not understandable
4) should be 'nitroglycerin' and 'anticoagulants'
5) Table 3 - replace 'ad mortem' with 'death'. 'Hemorrhoidal' is misspelled.
6) Figure 1 legend - notation of '*** p<0.001' does not appear in figure.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
1) although methods section states that patients reported on cardiac events there is no mention of them in the results -- if there were none it should be stated.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Declaration of competing interests:
I am the Co-investigator of the International EECP Patient Registry which is funded by Vasomedical Inc (manufacturer of the EECP system) through a contract with the University of Pittsburgh.