Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence of valvular heart disease in nonagenarians from the general population: The Leiden 85-plus study

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Reviewer: FULVIO LAURETANI

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The manuscript entitled “Prevalence of valvular heart disease in nonagenarians from the general population: The Leiden 85-plus study” suggested that significant valvular disease was highly prevalent in older persons, but the presence of significant valvular disease does not impact negatively on the functional status assessed with the GARS score.

The manuscript is accurately written, concise and well organized.

Major issues:

Should be important for well describe the functional status of this study population, report other functional tests, such as 4-meter walking test at usual or fast pace, or even score of the 400-meter walking test, which are objective walking tests, highly validated in older persons.

Details of the study characteristics such as cognitive status, depressive symptoms and other characteristics of the functional status such as ADL and IADL disability, could better describe this population, reinforcing the conclusion of the study.