Reviewer’s report

Title: Pre-clinical cardiac involvement in adulthood growth hormone deficiency: role for left ventricular remodeling. A single-centre case-control study

Version: 3 Date: 18 December 2005

Reviewer: Mariacarolina Salerno

Reviewer’s report:

General
The Authors have sufficiently answered most of the questions, however some points need to be further clarified

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

Major points
1. The aim of the study is still unclear. Is the aim of the study to evaluate whether obesity and hypertension in GHD subjects may be responsible of cardiac abnormalities, and in particular of LV eccentric hypertrophy?
2. If yes, why the Authors do not compare GHD patients with obesity and/or hypertension with those with normal weight and pressure? Also, they could show in a table the differences in BMI, IGF-I and cardiac parameters including pressure of GHD patients with eccentric hypertrophy compared to the others who were not affected by eccentric hypertrophy
3. Statistical analysis: the sentence “The GHD population was also divided into 3 …..” should be moved to the section Study population
4. Statistical analysis: what does the sentence “Student t-test was applied to the linear correlation……” mean?

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

Minor points
1. Discussion: the sentence “In agreement with our data …” should be changed in “Our data, in agreement with……”
2. Table 1: what does the sentence “* p=0.05” mean in the legend of table 1? No asterisk is present in table 1
3. In the legend of the tables should be stated, clearly, to which statistic test the P value in the last column refers.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.