Reviewer's report

Title: Effects of Ultrasound and Ultrasound Contrast Agent on Vascular Tissue

Version: 1 Date: 22 December 2011

Reviewer: rita bucalo

Reviewer's report:

The aim of the study was to investigate the combined effect of ultrasound and contrast agents' impact on the physiological response of vascular tissue. US contrast agents have been under scrutiny for their safety profile and black box warning has been issued by the FDA. Therefore, this reviewer believes that this study is of potential interest to the readership of the journal, but feels that substantial revision would be necessary before the paper could be considered for publication in Cardiovascular Ultrasound.

- Major Compulsory Revisions:
  1. The Authors should report in the methods the exact number of rats analysed in the study in order to provide the real size of the sample and the related power of the analysis.

- Minor Essential Revisions
  1. In the discussion section the Authors should cite some missing important studies, which contributed in this field with in vivo analysis.
  2. The Reviewer's opinion is that the 7 and 8 figures legends could made clearer emphasizing the detected abnormalities, to this end the review would suggest also the possible use of arrows in the pictures in order to highlight the damage.
  3. In the discussion at the end of the first paragraph there are two full stop, please remove one of them.

- Discretionary Revisions
  None

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests