Reviewer's report

Title: Left ventricular markers of global dyssynchrony predict limited exercise capacity in heart failure, but not in patients with HFpEF

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Reviewer: Lorenza Pratali

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The manuscript written by Bajraktari et al was aimed to prospectively examine functional ecocardiographic parameters that correlate and predict 6 min walk test results in patients with heart failure. The paper presents some flaws in the methods and some mistakes in the data presentations.

- The authors will specify the HFpEF in the title
- Abstract: in the abstract is not specify that the analysis was made in the subgroup with preserved EF.
- The authors had to clarify better the real aim of the study: Line 18: they stated - the predicting role of echo in assessing limited exercise capacity in pts with HF with preserved EF has not been studied- but in the follow sentence they specify that they studied a group irrespective of EF.

Methods: please specify how many patients have reduced EF and how many have preserved EF.

- line 13 what’s the meaning of clear evidence for LV dysfunction by echo.
- Specify how the authors have divided the pts in decreased and preserved EF.
- Pag 8, in the clinical data smoking and hemoglobine were significantly different in the two groups as showed in table 2.
- Page 9 the authors wrote: "none of clinical or echocardiographic parameters independently predicted the limited exercise in pts with HFpEF” Where these data are presented?
- Pg 10 line 4 “In addition, they have demonstrated clear evidence..” Maybe this phrase has to be rewritten in relation with the preview sentence.
- Pg 10 Line 7 the significance of this sentence it’s not clear.
- Table 5: the data regarding preserved EF corresponds to those with reduced EF at least for LA, LVEDD, LVEDS, EF

Conclusions: How the authors identify the clinical stability of the population?
- The authors do not presented any information regarding the presence of COPD in this population. This disease could be one of the principal causes of limited exercise performance.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely
related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests