Reviewer’s report

Title: Novel echocardiographic techniques to assess left atrial size, anatomy and function.

Version: 2 Date: 5 August 2011

Reviewer: Rosa Sicari

Reviewer’s report:

This is a review paper addressing the assessment of morphology and function of the atrial chamber by applying new quantitative technologies. Moreover, this is a topic of utmost importance for the authors who are devoting a large part of their publications to this issue. The review is interesting because it addresses a new actor in the pathophysiologic assessment of patients with several clinical conditions. However, due to the limited topic, the review seems to suffer of the same limitations: a work in progress.

In more detail:

1. Authors should structure the manuscript by subdividing into sub-sections focusing on the technological aspects of 3D and 3D speckle tracking.
2. They should address advantages and limitations and potential use in the clinical setting when compared to more conventional parameters. In other words authors should show if this is a breakthrough technology that may change our approach to the study of this chamber.
3. They should also discuss the lack of normality values, of a technological standard for speckle tracking.
4. The English language should be extensively revised.
5. Please adhere to journal’s rule when resubmitting.

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

Declaration of competing interests: ‘I declare that I have no competing interests’