Reviewer's report

Title: Reference values for fetal tissue velocity imaging and a new approach to evaluate fetal myocardial function

Version: 1 Date: 5 May 2013

Reviewer: victoria delgado

Reviewer's report:

The present study provides interesting data on cardiac function of 125 healthy fetuses using tissue Doppler imaging and a novel tool (so-called Dynamic Adaptive Piston Pump). The idea is original and the article may be of reference for the study of other pathologies. The article is well written and presented.

Comments:
1.-It is not clear how many echocardiograms were performed. It seems that the authors performed one baseline and another one at term. Please confirm.
2.-Also, it is not clear what the r-values mean in table 2. Do they show the correlation between values at baseline and at term?
3.-Data on inter- and intraobserver variability would be desirable. Although the authors refer to previous studies (one previous study by the same investigational group, but that I could not find in pubmed…maybe in press?), the introduction of a novel tool and the use of this technique in fetal echocardiography should be accompanied by some data in this regard
4.-what was the feasibility of TDI and the novel DAPP?

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 do not have any conflict of interest to disclose