Reviewer's report

Title: Need for a standardized protocol for stress echocardiography in provoking (sub)valvular gradient in various cardiac conditions

Version: 1 Date: 2 May 2014

Reviewer: Alberto Bouzas-Mosquera

Reviewer's report:

This paper proposes a standardized protocol for evaluation of LVOT gradients based on upright treadmill exercise echocardiography. This reviewer agrees that this approach is the most physiological and it should probably be recommended as the method of choice. Nonetheless, some issues deserve comment.

A) Major revisions:

- Page 4, second paragraph: Lafitte and colleagues employed bicycle exercise echocardiography in their study, not the “third approach” (i.e., treadmill post-exercise echo). This should be clarified.

- Table 2 includes some studies that did not use upright treadmill nor bicycle exercise echo for Doppler measurements. Thus, the figure legend or the content of the table should be corrected accordingly.

Minor revisions:

- Page 3: exercise test protocols: In which approaches are upright and semisupine bicycle exercise echo included?.

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

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