Reviewer's report

Title: The effects of beta-blockers on dobutamine-atropine stress echocardiography: early protocol versus standard protocol

Version: 1 Date: 6 June 2006

Reviewer: Rosa Sicari

Reviewer's report:

General
A well written manuscript with appropriate methodology and sound results. The issue, although not original, represents a frequent problem during routine clinical practice, i.e. patients on beta-blocking therapy. The only concern regarding these data is the safety profile of the accelerated protocols. Please provide data and discuss this issue.
Please provide accuracy results for the 3 protocols, even though CAD incidence may be uneven since patients on beta-blockers are reasonably thought to have more extensive CAD.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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