Reviewer's report

Title: Effect of Changes in Contractility on the Index of Myocardial Performance in the Dysfunctional Left Ventricle

Version: 1 Date: 23 October 2006

Reviewer: Lorenza Pratali

Reviewer's report:

General
The study is interesting and well written and performed and the results are valuable in the field of left systolic and diastolic dysfunction. The study investigated the mechanisms of improvement of contractility by dobutamine and digoxin in mild left ventricular dysfunction (EF 42+/- 3%).

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

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
there are some limitations in the clinical application of this study as the author wrote in the paragraphs: limitations. But one of these limitations is the scarce applicability of the methods in the clinical setting. The author limited the study in a special subset of animal with mild left ventricular dysfunction. Would have the same results apply in animals with severe LV dysfunction?.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept without revision

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.