Reviewer's report

Title: Noninvasive monitoring of regional and global function in peritoneal metastasis rat model after surgical and cytostatic therapy: assessment with tissue Doppler and non-Doppler 2D strain echocardiography

Version: 2 Date: 7 June 2007

Reviewer: Rosa Sicari

Reviewer's report:

General
In the present study Hartmann et al. address the issue of LV function assessment in an experimental model of cancer in rats.

1. Authors conclude that TDI is more sensitive than conventional 2-D parameters for LV function assessment. This statement should be supported by data and results. Data presentation is hard to follow and numbers to support their conclusions should be provided. Circumferential strain of the posterior wall is the only parameter affected by treatment whereas all the other parameters are unaffected. They should demonstrate the additive value, if any, of the more quantitative echo parameters. It would interesting to compare TDI for diastolic function and strain.

The statistical analysis is not appropriate: The fact that circumferential strain of the posterior wall is the only parameter that is modified after treatment does not mean that it is superior to all the other parameters analysed.

2. Have authors bioptic or histologic specimen of the hearts? This could be an independent standard to demonstrate their hypothesis.

3. The part on interobserver variability should be deleted

4. The discussion is too long and largely unfocused. It should be dramatically shortened.

Tables are too busy and not self explanatory and should be deleted. Results should be depicted by appropriate figures.

Minor comments.
Authors should follow the rules of the journal (see instructions for authors) References are not reported according to those rules.

There are several typos throughout the manuscript.
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What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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