Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence and inter-relationship of different Doppler measures of dyssynchrony in patients with heart failure and prolonged QRS: A report from CARE-HF

Version: 1 Date: 15 September 2008

Reviewer: Rosa Sicari

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting and well conducted study. The search for the best quantitative echo parameter to assess inter and intra-ventricular dyssynchrony is ongoing and the selection of patients who may benefit from CRT remain elusive. The PROSPECT study was very disappointing but it showed clearly that none of the proposed parameters is good enough even when used with the best methodology available. Authors propose TSI as an effective Doppler derived parameter to assess intra-ventricular dyssynchrony. There are only a few issues authors may address:

What is the additive value of TSI, when compared to other echo parameters?
No data on outcome are reported. Please address.
The PROSPECT study has been published on Circulation, please update and discuss the results.
Authors recommend TSI. Please discuss the practical implications of this choice.
There is growing evidence that the presence of contractile reserve identified by stress echocardiography in this set of patients is able to select the subset that will benefit from CRT. Please discuss.
The journal has no space limits, please upload clips with several echo samples.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'