Reviewer's report

Title: Real-time Evaluation of Longitudinal Peak Systolic Strain (Speckle Tracking Measurement) in Left and Right Ventricles of Athletes

Version: 1 Date: 7 March 2009

Reviewer: Rosa Sicari

Reviewer's report:

This is a very interesting study coming from an outstanding group in the evaluation of heart physiology in athletes. The methodology is appropriate, the results are sound and the conclusions clear. There are only a few issues that authors should address:

1. Abstract: There are no numbers in the abstract. Please give results
2. In the results section of the manuscript, the way results are presented is a little bit awkward. So please present the results in a more conventional way, showing some of the results in graph format.
3. The discussion is a little unfocused. Authors should try to put their results into context and discuss the practical implications of these results.
4. Please provide more images and/or clips (there is no space limit)

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'