Reviewer's report

Title: The limited usefulness of real-time 3-dimensional echocardiography in obtaining normal reference ranges for right ventricular volumes

Version: 1 Date: 12 June 2009

Reviewer: Anca Corciu

Reviewer's report:

A well written paper about the usefulness of Real Time 3-Dimensional echocardiography (RT3DE) in obtaining normal reference ranges for right ventricle volumes. The study methodology involves a pretty new technique, and the enrolled population consisted in a large number (n=166) of healthy volunteers. I would like to make several comments or remarks:

- the results would be more interesting if the authors will display the ranges for the right ventricle (RV) function and volumes obtained by RT3DE and for the RV areas and area fraction by 2D echocardiography in different age groups; please, use the same categories you presented in Table 1 (29-39 years, 40-49 years, 50-59 years and 60-80 years)
- in Table 2 and Table 3- please change the symbol “ – “ with the symbol “±"
- please note that if you wish the journal allows to publish movies

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests