Reviewer's report

Title: How to misuse echo contrast

Version: 1  Date: 15 December 2008

Reviewer: lucia venneri

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Many cases of hiatus hernia simulating a left atrial mass on transthoracic echocardiography have been already reported in the literature. Because of the possible cardiac effects, hiatus hernia is an entity that should be better known not only by gastroenterologists but also by cardiologists.

In this paper the Authors concluded that, although echocardiographic contrast perfusion imaging has been used to characterize vascularity of cardiac masses and differentiate malignant/highly vascular tumors from benign tumors and thrombi, it seems not able to distinguish between intra- and extra-cardiac masses.

1) It could be useful briefly discuss the safety issue of ultrasound contrast media, an important limitation of its widespread clinical use.

2) The Authors should emphasize the role of MRI, when TTE/TEE are inadequate to make the diagnosis.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'