Reviewer's report

Title: Respiratory maneuvers in echocardiography: a review of clinical applications

Version: 1 Date: 23 July 2009

Reviewer: lucia venneri

Reviewer's report:

The topic of this review is very interesting. The Authors, presenting some specific clinical situations, clearly showed how the simple respiratory maneuvers may be utilized in the echocardiography laboratory to make a diagnosis. The issue is not new, but certainly clinically relevant. The review emphasizes the ability of few, simple echo parameters in the definition of some complex diseases, such as constrictive pericarditis, restrictive cardiomyopathy, ect.

-In my opinion the Authors should report the technical, pathophysiological and clinical limitations of the method. For example, could the cardiac rhythm (such as atrial fibrillation) significantly influence the evaluation of the respiratory variation in the Doppler flow velocities?

-On the basis of their large experience Authors could provide a schematic diagnostic algorithm for each presented clinical situation to make the paper more clinical appealing

-There are several typos thoughout the manuscript that should be corrected.

Authors could upload moving images, clips (there is no space limit).

Level of interest: An article of importance 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