Reviewer's report

Title: Relationship between B-type natriuretic peptide levels and echocardiographic indices of left ventricular filling pressures in post-cardiac surgery patients

Version: 1 Date: 6 September 2009

Reviewer: Rosa Sicari

Reviewer's report:

This is a well conducted study addressing a practical clinical issue. The manuscript is well written, the methodology is state-of-the-art and the results are sound. There are only minor issues that authors may address.

1. Please detail the patient population under investigation and clarify inclusion and exclusion criteria. Moreover, add the time frame of enrolment.
2. Please specify when echo Doppler analysis was performed, before or after surgery?
3. Please add a table with mean values of echo parameters assessed.
4. Please provide e/e’ separately for patients with normal and reduced EF.
5. Most of the patients have a normal LVEF. Is there a selection bias? Please explain it.
6. The correlation between e/e’ and BNP is statistically significant albeit weak. It would be interesting to have a 2x2 table distribution with BNP normal/abnormal and e/e’ normal/abnormal.
7. The increase of LV filling pressures as determined by e/e’ is only one determinant of diastolic function. Please classify the population according to standard criteria (include it table format with all the echo Doppler measurements).
8. Please, in the discussion section of the manuscript, state more clearly the clinical implications of the present results. BNP is inappropriately measured in several subsets of patients without adding important clinical information. It would be important to know author’s opinion on this issue.
9. Please upload images (clips) with sample cases (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'