Reviewer's report

Title: Predictors of right ventricular function as measured by tricuspid annular plane systolic excursion in heart failure

Version: 1 Date: 16 September 2009

Reviewer: Stefano Ghio

Reviewer's report:

The objective of the study by Kjaergard et al can be considered interesting for the readers of the JCVU. TAPSE is in fact a simple and well known echocardiographic parameter used to evaluate right ventricular function. Although its prognostic relevance in heart failure has been established by several studies, it is important to determine which clinical or echo parameter may affect TAPSE values in such patients.

The methods are well specified; importantly, this is a subanalysis of a large study.

The results add useful information for the echocardiographists who perform echos in HF pts.

The discussion is well balanced.

I have no major objection to the authors but few minor requests, the main being that a native english teacher should review the paper to improve fluency.

1) page 2, line 12. <was> should be <were>.

2) page 2. Ref 4 has been published in 2007; ref 5 in 2005. Therefore the authors cannot state that <based on this (ref 4) TAPSE has been recommended … (5)>; ref 4 should be included at the end of the following sentence <More recent …>.

3) page 4, line 10. <trail> should be <trial>.

4) Page 4, line 12. the sentence is incomplete; <was observed> is likely missing

5) Page 6, Results section, 1st para. <The distibution of TAPSE was
normal in HF patients with…>

6) Page 6 and 7. Specify <see Table…> rather than just writing <Table>

7) Page 7, line 17. <eh> should be >the>>

8) Page 8, line 5. <was> should be <is>

9) Page 9, line 6. <of likely> should be <likely>

10) Page 9, line 9. <predictors> should be <predictor>

11) Page 13, line 13. <average of> should be deleted

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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'