Reviewer’s report

Title: Hypercholesterolemia and Myocardial Function Evaluated Via Tissue Doppler Imaging Jack Rubinstein M.D+, Augusta Pelosi DVM*, Ameeth Vedre M.D**, Pavan Kotaru M.D**, George S. Abela M.D., M.Sc, F.A.C.C** +From the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Cardiovascular Diseases, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH * From the College of Veterinary Medicine, Small Animal Clinical Sciences, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI **From the Department of Medicine, Division of Michigan State University, B 208 Clinical Center, East Lansing, MI 48824 Support was provided in part from Merck-Schering/Plough, Michigan State University (IRGP147) and Sparrow Hospital, Lansing, MI Short title: Hypercholesterolemia and Myocardial Dysfunction Key words: Hypercholesterolemia, Myocardial Dysfunction, Tissue Doppler Imaging Abstract word count: 241 Total word count: 2066 Tables: 2 Figures: 1 Conflicts of Interest: Grant from Merck-Schering/Plough

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Reviewer: emilio pasanisi

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In this manuscript Rubinstein et Coll. describe the existing conflicting data about cholesterol and systolic and diastolic function in literature.

In the experimental model used in this study was found a good correlation between lower cholesterol levels and systolic and diastolic function, even if the rabbit model, is quite far away from human beings.

The limitations of the study are underlined, but the study is important and useful to establish the feasibility of TDI in evaluation of diastolic and systolic function. This tool could be widely used in the future in both study models, animal and human.

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