Author's response to reviews

Title: Assessing functional mitral regurgitation with exercise echocardiography: rationale and clinical applications

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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The Authors are grateful to the Reviewers for giving them the opportunity to significantly improve the quality of the manuscript. All issues raised have been carefully addressed and the manuscript modified accordingly. In particular, the following changes have been made.

**Reviewer 1**

1. A possible algorithm of clinical use of exercise echocardiography for assessing FMR has been added as Figure 9, based upon present evidence.

2. Indication of ESC and ACC/AHA guidelines have been included and briefly discussed in the Discussion section.

3. Potential yield by force frequency relationship has been discussed in a new paragraph (Future developments) at the end of the manuscript.

4. More images have been uploaded.

5. The suggested reference have been included. However, as the article is not available yet the citation is incomplete.

**Reviewer 2**

1. The font size has been made uniform.

2. The relationship between contractile reserve and MR in dilated cardiomyopathy has been addressed at the end of the first (Functional mitral regurgitation) and fourth section (Clinical relevance of exercise-induced changes in FMR).

3. Methods to assess FMR have been discussed in a separate new section (Technical considerations).

The Authors do hope the manuscript can be reconsidered for publication in this revised form.

Best regards,

Riccardo Bigi MD, PhD. FESC