Reviewer's report

Title: Identification and Quantification of Prosthetic Mitral Regurgitation by Flow Convergence Method Using Transthoracic Approach

Version: 1 Date: 30 September 2008

Reviewer: Rosa Sicari

Reviewer's report:

The first report of the application of flow convergence to assess prostheses mitral regurgitation are dated back in 1992 (Cohen et al, JASE) and the very same authors of the present manuscript published the validation of the method in 2001 (ref. 6 of the present report). Nonetheless, in this particular set of patients this quantitative approach remains underused in high volume laboratories. Furthermore, paravalvular leaks are even more difficult to quantify. It would be very interesting, due to the long lasting experience of the authors to have their opinion. What is the feasibility? Why is it still largely underused? Limitations and advantages of the method. Tricks and pitfalls of the method described in this particular setting, through clips (the journal does allow the uploading of the images without space limits).

Minor comments: there are a few typos throughout the manuscript

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'