Reviewer's report

Title: Efficacy of beta-blocker therapy in symptomatic athletes with exercise-induced intra-ventricular gradients.

Version: 1 Date: 14 August 2010

Reviewer: Quirino Ciampi

Reviewer's report:

The authors described the effect of chronic oral beta-blocker therapy on the occurrence of exercise-induced intraventricular-gradient and mitral valve SAM, in symptomatic athletes.

The authors concluded that treatment with oral beta-blockers improved symptoms in the large majority of the athletes and improve the presence of intraventricular-gradient.

in with positive screening on medical evaluation for sports practice and IVG on exertion,.

The paper is very interesting and well written.

However, there are some suggestions:

1. The authors should include all adults athletes (>18 years old) for the use of therapy with beta-blockers in young subjects, difficult to compare the echocardiographic characteristics and effects of type of sport practiced in young and adult athletes.

2. The authors should report the type of sport practiced.

3. The authors should clarify the types of the exercise-induced symptoms.

4. The authors should add a table with echocardiographic characteristics of the athletes studied (i.e. LV end-diastolic and end-systolic diameters and volumes, walls thickness)

5. As the authors have ruled that the patients do not have hypertrophic cardiomyopathy? (Familial screening, deconditioning, interventricular septum thickness)

6. The authors should they should include a group of athletes who did not have intraventricular-gradient and/or mitral valve SAM during the exercise, and compare the type of sport practiced and baseline echocardiographic characteristics of the 2 groups, with the aim to identify the echocardiographic characteristics and/or type of the sport related to intraventricular-gradient.

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