Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 16 August 2010

Reviewer: Rosa Sicari

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting and well conducted study. Methodology is appropriate and results are sound. There are only a few issues that authors should address:

1. Feasibility: Authors should report the feasibility of treadmill for Doppler evaluation. It is well established that semi-supine exercise echocardiography is more feasible than treadmill. Please discuss.
2. Please detail symptoms of the patient population under investigation. Why they were referred to your centre etc.
3. Please clarify how the beta-blockers dosage was chosen.
4. Is there any dose – related effect in exercise and echo parameters?
5. The study limitations please discuss the lack of recommendations in evaluating these patients
6. Please discuss the clinical significance of intra-ventricular gradients.
7. Due to the wide experience of the authors in this field, an algorithm of evaluation/treatment may be proposed.
8. Due to the nature of the journal please upload clips of sample cases (before and after treatment) (as in figure 1)

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'