Reviewer’s report

Title: Improved cardiovascular diagnostic accuracy by pocket size imaging device in non cardiologic outpatients. The NaUSiCa (Naples Ultrasound Stethoscope in Cardiology) Study

Version: 1 Date: 8 November 2010

Reviewer: Rosa Sicari

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting and timing study addressing the novel use in the clinical practice of hand-held pocket size echo machines. There are a few issues that authors should address:

1. In the abstract section of the manuscript authors use the term “theoretical” additional diagnostic power and it is not clear what they mean.
2. Please rephrase the second aim of the study: you are not actually comparing high-end and pocket size hand-held machines but the limited number of parameters measurable with these new devices. Please specify in the aims of the study that you are also comparing beginners with expert readers.
3. Please list the indications for rest echo.
4. In the results section of the manuscript the reasons for exclusion from the study are reported: move them to the study population section
5. When reporting diagnostic accuracy please use conventional definition with 95% CI and no p-value
6. Please describe in detail the training of the non-expert group.
7. Due to the nature of the journal clips of samples should be uploaded.
8. The English language should be extensively revised.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'