Author's response to reviews

Title: Echocardiography in patients with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy: usefulness of old and new techniques in the diagnosis and pathophysiological assessment.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Picano,

Enclosed is the revised version of the above manuscript by myself and others for your consideration for publication in Cardiovascular Ultrasound. We appreciate the thoughtful consideration given to our manuscript, and we have carefully followed the Reviewers’ comments that we consider appropriate and relevant to our work. We think that, by adhering to their suggestions, the manuscript is significantly improved and more readable. Our replies to the Reviewers’ comments follow.

Reviewer #1:
We appreciate the Reviewer's considerations.
Specific comments.
1. We abbreviated the genetic part and we added the bibliographic note relative to gentic counselling and relative comments suggested by the reviewer in the same subheading.
2. We divided the manuscript into 1) conventional echo methods and 2) new technologies. In this last headings we inserted two subheading not present in the previous version “contrast echocardiography and 3D echocardiography”.
3. A subheading MRI (magnetic resonance imaging)is now present. In that subheading we clarified the role of the technique in patients with HCM.
4. We added a figure which summarizes the echo techniques useful to orient diagnosis in patients with unexplained left ventricular hypertrophy.
5. Prognostic data on the role of electrocardiographic variation during dipiridyamol infusion have been added.
6. Guidelines for the indication to myocardial biopsy have been added and the role of biopsy in both patients with unexplained LV hypertrophy and specifically in patients with HCM has been clearly reported.
7. A figure showing echocardiographic parameters predictors of prognosis has been added.
8. Some figures have been added.
9. We hope that English language is now improved.

Reviewer #2
This Reviewer suggests interesting considerations.
1. We changed lines 7-9 as suggested by the Reviewer.
2. We provided references for reno-vascular hypertension, Fabry’s disease, glicogenosis and Friedreich ataxia.
3. We shortened the paragraph concerning the genetic part as also suggested by Reviewer #1.
4. We specified the clinical end-points adopted in the paper by Cortigiani et al reported in the subheading “coronary flow reserve”. Unfortunately we cannot add the relative figure.
because at moment there are still problems in obtaining permission for publication from Elsevier.

5. Two figures have been added to summarize the main echocardiographic findings and their relative prognostic impact.

As the corresponding Author and on behalf of all other Authors and of Working Group of Echocardiography of the Italian Society of Cardiology, I hope you will find this manuscript of interest to the readers of Cardiovascular Ultrasound.

Thank you in advance for your time.

Yours in faith,

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