Reviewer's report

Title: Quantitative analysis of left atrial function in asymptomatic patients with b-thalassemia major using real-time three-dimensional echocardiography

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Reviewer: Rosa Sicari

Reviewer's report:

In the present manuscript, Aggeli et al. Try to address the role of left atrium measured by 3-D echocardiography in beta-thalassemic patients. Authors conclude that left atrial emptying is reduced in patients vs. Controls. The study is interesting but there are a few issues that authors should address:

Please clarify how the patient population was selected.

What is the time from diagnosis to echo evaluation?

Please clarify why they underwent 3D echo.

Please specify how the control group selected.

In the abstract section of the manuscript numbers on EF should be given.

Please report in graph format some of the data reported in tables (note that table 5 is in Greek)

The major problem with beta-thalassemic patients is LV dysfunction in late stages of disease. Please expand in the discussion section of the manuscript the pathophysiologic mechanism at the basis of left atrial dysfunction. Moreover, state clearly the clinical implications of the present results

Due to the nature of the journal it would be important to have sample cases uploaded.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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