Reviewer's report

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

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 29 October 2011

**Reviewer:** Matteo Cameli

**Reviewer's report:**

The topic is interesting; the study appears quite well conducted for design and contents. References and pictures are lacking. Some other points should be addressed:

- Being novel measurements of LA function, is necessary to provide a feasibility analysis and Bland Altman agreement plot regarding intra- and interobserver reproducibility of such measurements.

- Please provide an additive good-quality figure depicting the way to measure these new parameters.

- Considering the still relatively low temporal and spatial resolution of 3D imaging, it would be really useful for the manuscript to present data also regarding 2D analysis through quantitative softwares (strain rate, speckle tracking echocardiography) and to accordingly perform a comparison with 3D STE ones: Cardiovasc Ultrasound. 2009 Feb 8;7:6.


- Provide Tables with a better quality. Correct the term “diastoly” in Table 2.

- The manuscript needs an intensive revision of English.

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
No competing interests declared.