Reviewer's report

Title: Comparison of the rhythm control treatment strategy versus the rate control strategy in patients with permanent or long-standing persistent atrial fibrillation and heart failure treated with cardiac resynchronization therapy - rationale and design of a pilot study of the randomized controlled Cardiac Resynchronization in Atrial Fibrillation Trial (Pilot-CRAfT).

Version: 4  Date: 2 September 2014

Reviewer: riccardo PROIETTI

Reviewer's report:

The authors replied to all my comments and the manuscript is improved.

I have just one more comment:

1) In the end-point section the authors stated:
   The primary endpoint is an overall BiVp% during the one-year study period (i.e. a mean BiVp% through the whole follow-up period). The “triggered” paced beats are not treated as effective and are excluded from the analysis.

   Can you please provide citation for this sentence.
   I think that the issue of triggered beats is relevant and there is a lack of data on this topic.
   I would look at the percentage of triggered activity.

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:

None