Reviewer’s report

Title: Methods of estimation of mitral valve regurgitation for the cardiac surgeon.

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Reviewer: George Koullias

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Methods of estimation of mitral valve regurgitation for the cardiac surgeon

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All of the following constitute discretionary revisions

Introduction

1. 1st sentence: Should be re-written to incorporate the most recent (2007) AHA guidelines that include several newer mitral valve indications.

2. 3rd sentence: “According…evident”: That sentence is not entirely true. Several surgeons operate earlier -before LV function declines- and that should be mentioned in the manuscript (see publications by Steven Bolling)

3. Table 2: On the subject of angiography and MV Regurgitation, table 2 completely duplicates the manuscript and should be excluded. This table should include only a more concise representation of the Doppler echocardiography data.

4. Since thye article is primarily targeting cardiac surgeons a completely separate paragraph in the text should be devoted to the intraoperative Trans-esophageal Echo data analysis./ the major tool of the cardiac surgeon

5. The text repeatedly keeps mentioning “aortic and mitral valve regurgitation”. This article is about the mitral valve and only this should be mentioned in the text.

This article provided a very accurate and up to date review of the tools available to the cardiac surgeon for mitral valve assessment.

It is very useful and well written and certainly deserves publication.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'