Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 2 June 2009

Reviewer: Apostolos Christou

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have presented an interesting review article about the methods of estimation of mitral valve regurgitation for the cardiac surgeon.

The article however does have some elements, which must be corrected in order to be published:

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. The references are in wrong order.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Less key-words should be used.
2. The reports about the aortic valve regurgitation are not necessary.
3. Although the quality of written English is acceptable, there are one or two changes to be done.
   • Page 3, cardiac catheterization, 2nd line: reflux or ejection instead of injection
   • Page 9, last line: transthoracic instead of tranthoracic

According my opinion the value of echocardiography as the key technique to confirm the diagnosis of valvular heart disease as well to assess its severity is underestimated in the text. However the interest of this article is the presentation of cardiac MRI as an alternative technique not familial to the most doctors. I believe that a clear statement must be included in the text, that cardiac MRI is not indicated in valvular heart disease in routine clinical practice unless the echocardiography is not feasible.

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