Reviewer's report

Title: Left ventricular diastolic impairment from the surgeon's prospective: Of minimal importance or an actual "Trojan horse"?

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Reviewer: CHRISTOPHOROS FOROULIS

Reviewer's report:

Apostolakis et al. summarize in their nice review the negative effects of diastolic left ventricular dysfunction after cardiac surgery. The authors did an exhaustive review of the literature and provide a well written paper.

I have only two minor remarks to do:

1) In page 18, the authors could give more information on which sub-categories of patients with coronary artery disease are prone for the development of postoperative myocardial diastolic dysfunction or all candidates for CABG should be preoperatively evaluated for signs of silent diastolic dysfunction of the LV. The preoperative detection of diastolic LV dysfunction may affect surgical practice?

2) Castellá et al. (Eur J Cardiothorac Surg 2006; 29: 107-114) give in their experimental work details on the contributions of the endocardial and epicardial segments of the ventricular myocardial band and how the dyssynchrony in start and end of contraction may be responsible for diastolic dysfunction after ischemia-reperfusion damage of myocardium. I believe this information could be added in the manuscript.

Major compulsory revisions: -
Minor essential revisions: -

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.