Reviewer's report

Title: Aortic stiffness as a marker of cardiac function and myocardial strain in patients undergoing aortic valve replacement

Version: 1 Date: 12 May 2014

Reviewer: Yasir Abu-Omar

Reviewer's report:

This paper is very well-written.

Minor revisions:

1. The potential confounds on PWV measures should be discussed - e.g. Aortic atherosclerosis, drugs etc

2. The outcome measure of leg oedema is subjective and may be seen in many patients following cardiac surgery

3. The conclusions are somewhat too optimistic in that the measure in question still needs further validation before being implemented as a marker of clinical functional status. As such, it remains a research tool.

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

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