Reviewer's report

Title: Atrial fibrillation in healthy adolescents following highly caffeinated beverage consumption: a case series

Version: 1 Date: 29 March 2010

Reviewer: Russell Keast

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: Other

If other, please specify:

Descriptive evaluation of symptoms associated with excessive caffeine consumption

Has the case been reported coherently?: Yes

Is the case report authentic?: Yes

Is the case report ethical?: Yes

Is there any missing information that you think must be added before publication?: Yes

Is this case worth reporting?: Yes

Is the case report persuasive?: No

Does the case report have explanatory value?: Yes

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: Yes

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: No

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: No

Comments to authors:

Atrial fibrillation in healthy adolescents following highly caffeinated beverage consumption: a case series

Jennifer Di Rocco et al

The manuscript reports 2 cases where excessive reported caffeine consumption may have lead to atrial fibrillation. Excessive caffeine consumption is a topical
issue, with the prevalence of energy drinks. The manuscript is descriptive in nature and warrants publication if the following issues are addressed.

1/ The introduction needs more detail on caffeine, the physiological roles, ½ life of activity, variance in population sensitivity to caffeine. All are relevant to the case studies.

2/ Relate consumption of caffeine stated by subjects to other known cases. How much caffeine was consumed by the subjects and is this in a normal range or grossly excessive. This will establish that the amount of caffeine consumed was likely cause.

3/ Explain any time lag or variance between caffeine consumption and onset of symptoms, being see by MDs. Does the timeline fir caffeine consumption.

4/ I would remove the patient name in acknowledgements section.

5/ The ECG traces are poor quality. Use higher resolution examples. Description of ECG traces not adequate, please elaborate.

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'