Reviewer's report

**Title:** Admission Hypoxia-inducible Factor 1alpha Levels and In-hospital Mortality in Patients with Acute Decompensated Heart Failure

**Version:** 2  
**Date:** 30 April 2015

**Reviewer:** Armando Pucciarelli

**Reviewer's report:**

Commentary by Armando Pucciarelli

Minor Essential Revisions

The authors have considerably improved the quality of the English language, however one of the corrections that I have proposed in my comments has been only partially accomplished. My present criticism refers to the figure 3 that has been added after I have specifically addressed this issue in my previous comment, as reported below:

> Results, page 7, row 7: "HIF-1# levels positively correlated with NT-proBNP (r = 0.337, P<0.001), TnT (r = 0.357, P<0.001), and negatively correlated with LVEF (r = -0.332, P<0.001) and SBP (r = -0.145, P=0.013)." Please add the correlation plots in order to better describe the correlations that have been found between HIF-1# and NT-ProBNP, HIF-1# and TnT, HIF-1# and LVEF, HIF-1# and SBP (four scatter plots on the whole).

In truth, the authors have built the four scatter diagrams with regression line, but they have omitted to report the required regression equation for each of the drawn plots, i.e. within every plot the respective values of the intercept and beta-coefficient (slope) are lacking, in contrast with the good rule which provides for inclusion of the constant in equation, according to the scheme: Y (dependent variable) = a + bX. Furthermore, cTnT should be expressed as ng/1000 ml rather than ng/ml. Please redo the four scatter plots accordingly, by entering the values of intercept and slope in each of them.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.