Reviewer’s report

Title: In-vitro examination of the positive inotropic effect of caffeine and taurine, the two most frequent active ingredients of energy drinks

Version: 0 Date: 29 Mar 2017

Reviewer: Cristina Balla

Reviewer’s report:

The study of Dr. Chaban et al. evaluated the effects of caffeine and taurine, main components of energy drinks, on myocardial contractile force in human atrial tissue preparations. They demonstrated a significant increase in myocardial contractility after administration of caffeine but they showed no effects after taurine treatment.

The study described some interesting new findings about the inotropic effect of caffeine and taurine, main components of energy drinks. However, there are some limitations on the study that should be revised.

- It is not clear why the 3 study groups have different number of samples. The authors should explain this heterogeneity.

- The patient’ population should be described in more details. I would suggest also a more easy-readable table.

- I suggest adding an additional figure to put together all the findings and to better explain the statistical results.

- The quality of written English should be improved.

- The figures present poor quality and should be revised.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.
No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.
I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal