Reviewer’s report

Title: Layer-specific speckle tracking analysis of left ventricular systolic function and synchrony in maintenance hemodialysis patients

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Reviewer: David Wen Rui Wang

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-written manuscript reporting the utility of layer-specific strain in assessing cardiac dysfunction in end-stage renal disease patients undergoing chronic hemodialysis. The authors used conventional speckle tracking imaging well-described in prior studies, and their work adds to the existing body of literature. There are no major concerns for this manuscript.

Minor concerns:
1.) The authors refer to echocardiography with the abbreviation "ECG," which by convention stands for electrocardiography. This occurs at least two times: once in the methods section "Conventional 2D Doppler echocardiography" and once in the results section "Comparison of traditional ECG parameters between control and MHD groups."

2.) The primary focus of this research, as suggested by the title of the article, is ventricular systolic function. Yet, in the section entitled "Comparison of traditional ECG parameters ..." much of the parameters are indicative of diastolic function. While it is expected that ESRD patients suffer from diastolic dysfunction in the setting of LV hypertrophy and other factors, this section appears less compatible with the overarching theme.

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.

Yes

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:

Acceptable

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