Reviewer's report

Title: Non-diagnostic autopsy findings in sudden unexplained death victims

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Reviewer: Cristina Balla

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript by Yazdanfard et al is a retrospective study that evaluated the percentage and the type of non-diagnostic autopsy cardiac findings in sudden unexplained death victims. They found 63% of non diagnostic cardiac findings, mainly due to hypertrophy and/or enlarged heart, coronary atheromatosis, myocardial fibrosis, dilated chambers and myocardial inflammation.

It is an interesting topic and further studies will be necessary in order to improve diagnosis in sudden unexplained deaths.

The authors correctly mentioned in the limitations section the lack of a control group and the retrospective nature of the word that led to missing data.

However, I would suggest to clarify some issues:

- the authors described in test and in the table "hypertrophy and/or enlarged heart" as a single finding separated from "dilated chambers". I would clarify the definition of both categories.

- I would also clarify the definition of coronary atheromatosis, myocardial fibrosis (focal, patchy, diffuse??) and myocardial inflammation.

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.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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Yes
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Not relevant to this manuscript

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