Reviewer's report

Title: Feasibility and accuracy of bedside transthoracic echocardiography in diagnosis of acute proximal aortic dissection

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Reviewer: ARTURO EVANGELISTA

Reviewer's report:

Reviewer's report: This is an interesting and large study which shows the accuracy of TTE in the diagnosis of type A dissection. There are some aspects that should be considered:

- It is not clear how the imaging tests were analysed.
- Were the examiners blinded to the clinical diagnosis or the results of the other test?
- Was this analysis performed in acute phase or retrospectively? If it was performed in acute phase how was it carried out in a blinded manner.
- I think the gold standard was not intraoperative image but intraoperative surgical findings.

There are several limitations that should be considered by TTE:
- TTE has difficulties in visualize the upper segment of the ascending aorta.
- Intramural haematoma is not easy by TTE
- Entry tear location.
- Contrast echo could improve the results in doubtful cases.

These limitations should be addressed in the discussion.

- When do symptoms, physical exam or other complications, such as: visceral or peripheral ischaemia indicate performing CT?


Arrows should be included in Figures (Fig 22A - 2C).

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

I do not have any conflict of interest.