Author's response to reviews

Title: Early markers of right heart involvement in regular smokers by Pocket Size Imaging Device

Authors:

Vincenzo Schiano-Lomoriello (cappatost@libero.it)
Roberta Esposito (robyeire@tin.it)
Ciro Santoro (cirohsantoro@gmail.com)
Giovanni de Simone (simogi@unina.it)
Maurizio Galderisi (mgalderi@unina.it)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Thank you for kind comments

Enclosed the point-by-point reply to your concerns.

1. I did not fully understand the rationale of creating different groups according to the amount of cigarettes smoked daily. Could the Authors give any explanation or references for this type of division?

   In the new draft of the manuscript we explain that “This analysis was performed to highlight possible graduality effect of smoking habit on PSID parameters“. The subdivision in tertiles can be of interest because it is impossible to know the exact number of cigarettes smoked per day in any individual smokers. Unfortunately, no references to exhibit.

2. The discussion section should be shortened and more focused on the interpretation and clarification of the obtained results. For instance, many parts of the Results section were repeated in the discussion and the explanation of the results was largely corroborated only by one reference (No 28). Please, provide more pertinent references regarding the conclusion of the present research.

   The discussion has been shortened in some parts, which were redundant in the previous draft of the manuscript. A more pertinent reference is referred to the conclusions.

3. According to my opinion the deterioration of lung function – highly presumable in smoker subjects – could also influenced the results. Could the authors provide any information about lung function test results (spirometry) in the smoker group?

   Furthermore, reporting pro-BNP values would be interesting as well.

   Our study represents a screening study in asymptomatic smokers. Accordingly, no data are available on spirometry and pro-BNP. This can represent a study limitation and we included a statement on this missing data in the Limitation section (see page 11, line 3 and following).

4. Intra- and inter-observer variability data should be provided.

   Intra- and inter-observer variability has been determined and is presented in the Results section (see page 7, the last three lines).