Reviewers report

Title: Evaluation of left ventricular remodelling in young Afro-Caribbean athletes.

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Reviewer: Nicola Riccardo Pugliese

Reviewers report:

This is a nice study about left ventricular remodeling in adolescent Afro-American athletes compared to Caucasian athletes.

Data are interesting, especially for the unique characteristics of the population, but there are some significant methodological limitations that should be addressed.

- Apparently, you excluded 20 subjects from your initial population. Why? Please explain the specific reason for each of the excluded subject.

- Who performed the echocardiograms? How many different operators? Do they have European certification for transthoracic echo? Did you assess their inter-observer variability?

- You state that differences in end-diastolic LV volumes are not significant because they may be due to inter-observer variability. Why this should not apply for all other measurements? This is a crucial aspect which should be clarified.

- The echo description lacks some important information. No data are provided about LA and RA volumes (at least dimensions), as well as no PASP values. Although the right heart is not the core of your analysis, it would be interesting to have a more comprehensive description of these hearts. You have strain analysis, but apparently you did not perform Tissue Doppler Imaging. Why? The echo exams should be stored so you should be able to recall some of this information.

- It seems that strain analysis was performed in a subgroup. This should be better highlighted.

- IVS wall thickness is different in the two study groups, but LVMI and RWT are not. You should discuss this, providing your possible explanations for this finding.

- RWT data should be added to the tables.

- Why did you choose a cut-off of 0.40 for RWT, which is different from ASE/EACVI recommendations (your reference 19).
- Your definition of LVH is questionable, and you should explain to the reader why you didn't apply standard definition of LVH at echo.

- A paragraph on study limitations is lacking. I suggest to add it.

- The first evaluation of Table 4 seems different from Table 2. Please, explain.

- It would be interesting also to see whether there are significant differences between the first assessment and the follow-up within the same study group.

- In your statistical analysis how did you choose parametric and not parametric tests?

- Please put all p values in the tables, even if they are non-significant.

- The paper needs to be reviewed by an English mother-tongue

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Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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