Reviewer's report

Title: Global peak left atrial longitudinal strain assessed by transthoracic echocardiography is a good predictor of left atrial appendage thrombus in patients in sinus rhythm with heart failure and very low ejection fraction - an observational study

Version: 1 Date: 11 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Jun-Bean Park

Reviewer's report:

I appreciate the authors for the work that they have done to improve this manuscript.

There is only one issue that has not been resolved in the revised manuscript.

Is the absolute difference in global peak left atrial longitudinal strain (PALS) clinically relevant?

How does the difference in global PALS values between groups compare to inter-observer and intra-observer variability for this index?

If the mean global PALS in patients with left atrial appendage thrombus was (LAAT) was 7.2% and the mean global PALS in those without LAAT was 9.7%, is this difference (2.5%) greater than the variability in global PALS measurements?

To address this issue, measures of absolute reliability, such as root mean square error and limits of agreement, are recommended to be used, in conjunction with measures of relative reliability, such as intraclass correlation coefficient, which was provided by the authors.

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Needs some language corrections before being published
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