Reviewer's report

Title: Clinical Significance of Left Atrial Volume in Clinical Outcomes of Heart Transplant Recipients

Version: 2  Date: 6 February 2015

Reviewer: Ali Machaal

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Reviewer’s Report
Title: Clinical Significance of Left Atrial Volume in Clinical Outcomes of Heart Transplant Recipients
Version: 1
Date: 06 February 2015
Reviewer: Ali Machaal

Reviewer’ Report:
In a previous study (Ref 1) the authors showed that left atrial volume (LAV) may be a surrogate for factors limiting exercise capacity in heart transplant (HT) recipients. The current article is attempting to evaluate whether LAV is associated with clinical outcomes in this group of patients.

The study design is clear, and the manuscript is well written. However I would suggest that the following points need to be revised and addressed:
- While the study showed no correlations between LAV and clinical outcomes, I do not think we could simply conclude that there is no relationship between exercise capacity and clinical outcomes as the authors stated: “Our results implicate that this relationship is not applicable to HT population…” (page 8 line 19).
- I am not a qualified statistician but I have slight concern about some of the presented data, namely the average time to first hospitalization.
- The presented figures are completely blurred and unreadable

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests