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DIPARTIMENTO DI PATOLOGIA E DIAGNOSTICA

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**Prof. Lian-Sheng Ma,  
President and Company Editor-in-Chief  
World Journal of Cardiology**

Dear Prof. Ma,

The manuscript entitled “**Red blood cell distribution width in heart failure: a narrative review**” [ID: 37841] is resubmitted for publication in **World Journal of Cardiology**.

On behalf of all authors, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Reviewers’ comments on our manuscript. We found these comments most helpful in improving the manuscript. We have addressed each of the Reviewers’ concerns and have summarized our response in the following point-to-point list of answers to the comments. All changes to the original submission are highlighted throughout the manuscript.

Yours sincerely,

*Giuseppe Lippi*

**Reviewer #1:**

This review is well written and informative. I only have a comment; it is better to edit reference section according to the style of the journal.

- ANSWER: We are really thankful to the referee for the favourable comments on our manuscript. The reference have been now reedited according to the style of the journal.

**Reviewer #2:**

The authors present a nice mini-review on red cell distribution width and heart failure. The manuscript is well written, the data-studies depicted, figures and tables are pretty ok. Thus, I would suggest a minor addition. I missed a small section regarding diferential diagnosis (+-table). I mean if the physician finds an elevated rdw, what/when to do (investigations, tests... and so on). I understand that this is very "wide", but some practical phases would help a lot here (ie. nutritional deficiency such as iron, folate, or vitamin B12 deficiency, ...):

- ANSWER: We are thankful to the referee for the globally favourable comments on our manuscript. As for the comment about the differential diagnosis, this is a very good point, thanks. We have hence included a new table (new table 1), as suggested by the referee:

**Table 1 Differential diagnosis of anemia based on mean corpuscular volume (MCV) and red blood cell distribution width (RDW).**

Conditions	MCV	RDW
Chronic diseases anemia	↓	N
Heterozygous thalassemia	↓	N
Iron deficiency	↓	↑
β-thalassemia	↓	↑
Sickle cell trait	↓	N
Haemolytic anemia	N/↓	↑
Hereditary spherocytosis	N/↓	↑
Sickle cell disease	N	↑
Haemorrhage	N	N
Blood transfusions	N	↑
Chronic liver disease	N/↑	↑
Aplastic anemia	↑	N
Folate deficiency	↑	↑
Vitamin B12 deficiency	↑	↑
Myelodysplastic syndrome	↑	↑

↓: decreased; N: normal; ↑: increased

**Reviewer #3:**

This manuscript is about the association between red blood cell distribution width and the clinical course in heart failure. The theme of this manuscript is important in clinical setting. The manuscript is well written and a fine well illustrated one.

- ANSWER: We are really thankful to the referee for the favourable comments on our manuscript. No actions needed.

**Reviewer #4:**

The authors reviewed the red blood cell distribution in heart failure. This manuscript included a lot of papers and is well-written. I have no questions and requests regarding this manuscript.

- ANSWER: We are really thankful to the referee for the favourable comments on our manuscript. No actions needed.