

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Cardiology

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Title: Endothelial progenitor cells mobilization after maximal exercise according to heart failure severity

Reviewer's code: 03531928

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Chief Doctor, Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Greece

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Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

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Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors report on the endothelial progenitor cells mobilization after maximal exercise according to heart failure severity. The study seems appropriately planned and conducted. The methods section seems well described, statistical analysis seems adequate. The discussion is formed properly. The conclusion that an increased EPCs and CECs mobilization after maximal exercise in CHF patients. But there are still some questions. 1. Authors divided all the patients in two groups of severity according to the median value of peak VO₂ (18.0 ml/kg/min), predicted peak VO₂ (65.5%), VE/VCO₂ slope (32.5) and EF (reduced and mid-ranged EF). Is this a reasonable grouping? 2. Authors used three methods for grouping, but only one group was analyzed for demographic and exercise characteristics. Please amend it. 3. The values of cellular populations are expressed in median (25th-75th percentiles). And the difference between the two groups is described by using boxplots. The above indicates that this kind of data belongs to non-normal distribution. Please describe it in the article and present the statistical value.